

The Compact for Sustainable Bay Area

General Assembly Votes on Sustainable Development Proposals

After hearing about "sustainability" for some time, ABAG delegates were able to review detailed proposals at the Spring General Assembly on "Sustainable Development."

Following early morning remarks from Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown (see page 2), General Assembly participants were presented with the draft "Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area," an action plan that lists 67 proposed commitments that are critical to preserving the economic, environmental and social attributes of our region for future generations.

The Compact was developed by the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development, a multi-stakeholder coalition whose members represent "the three E's" of sustainability (Economy, Environment and social Equity) plus "a G" for government. The Alliance has worked on the draft Compact for over a year, and the General Assembly marked its first public review.

The Compact is organized under eight general issues that must be addressed in order to *sustain* our robust economy, our quality environment, and to ensure equitable opportunities for all citizens. General Assembly participants heard presentations on the need to take action on the eight major issues, and then were asked to register their level of support for those issues and 67 supporting commitments. Voting was conducted using hand-held electronic keypads and an OptionFinder(TM) software system. Results were tabulated and were displayed on a large screen for immediate review. ABAG delegates (as well as private sector participants) voted on a scale of 1 to 10, with "1" indicating strong opposition and "10" indicating strong support.

All eight issues received votes that averaged in the "8 to 9 range," which are described as "mostly support" to "strongly support." The highest average vote (a 9.5) was registered for education: *Provide all residents with the opportunity for quality education and lifelong learning.*

The eight issues and their corresponding average votes are: Affordable Housing (8.7); Transportation Investments (8.3); Open Space, Habitats and Farmland (8.6); Neighborhood

Revitalization (8.9); Quality Education and Lifelong Learning (9.5); Resources and Waste Reduction (9.3); Local Government Finance (8.6); and Civic Engagement (9.0).

All of the 67 commitments also received votes fairly high on the "support" side of the scale. The highest votes were scores of 10.0 by county supervisors for "*encourage parental involvement*" in education and "*develop plans to set priorities for natural resource preservation, including wetlands restoration and preservation, informed by best available science.*" The lowest vote (6.9) was registered by city elected officials for "*support efforts to use existing housing stock efficiently, by encouraging second units, group housing and similar mechanisms.*"

The complete results (available on the ABAG website) include votes by 6 county supervisors, 41 city councilmembers or mayors and 98 other General Assembly participants (members of the Commonwealth Club, the Urban Land

(continued on page 3)

To me,
sustainable
development means
making a commitment
to grow responsibly
for the benefit of
everyone.

--- Alameda
County
Supervisor
Mary King

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ServiceMattersisa
publicationofthe
AssociationofBay
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planningandservices
agencyfortheSan
FranciscoBayArea's
9countiesand100cities.

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Cities, Suburbs and Sustainability

Mayor Jerry Brown Opens General Assembly

Citing international examples, authors, obscure (but relevant) facts and trivia, Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown opened the Spring General Assembly on Sustainable Development.

Mayor Brown noted that a "green plan" from Germany (available on his website) sparked much of his thinking on sustainability. With that as a base, the Mayor proceeded to touch on issues of international diplomacy (the major political concern of the G7 nations is accelerating the "flow of stuff" across international borders); the conflict of "economic and environmental imperatives" (humans cannot replicate nature; therefore, as we consume our resources we must remember that they are finite); and the significance of potholes in Oakland (they are visible, bothersome and easily fixable).

Mayor Brown talked about how we are spreading ourselves out in the Bay Area, and how that distance has implications-- to individuals and to the region.

"We have to acknowledge the consequences," he said.

Addressing the need to bring more people back to the city-- rather than spreading

growth further away from the job centers-- the mayor said, "Suburbs are cheaper, cleaner, safer and they have better schools. Cities have to trump that."

We can make the cities attractive as a place to live as well as work, he said, with culture, flavor and human activity. "We have to restore life to the core areas of our cities," he said.

According to the Mayor, technological fixes are not enough. What is needed is an "attitudinal shift."

Instead of a vision of more suburbs he said, "we can have a vision of Manhattan....or, think Hong Kong."

"Elegant density" is his term for compact development in the city-- where more people live closer together with the amenities of urban living. (The mayor pledges to bring 10,000 new residents to downtown Oakland.)

"If we're going to have density," he said, "we're going to rub shoulders more often." (As a trade-off), "we have to make the city an exciting place to be."

"Our urban space determines where the world is going, where America is going, where we are going."

Suburbs are cheaper, cleaner, safer and they have better schools. Cities have to trump that.

-- Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown

Spare the Air!



This summer, join dozens of cities and counties and hundreds of Bay Area companies that are helping to "Spare the Air." A project of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Spare the Air is a voluntary effort to reduce ozone during the summertime. Cities that sign up will receive *free* educational materials for their residents. For more information, visit www.sparetheair.org or call 415/975-2955, ext. 4.

Institute and non-profit advocates). *The online results identify votes by "city," "county" and "all voters."*

The five highest votes on the list of commitments from the city elected officials are: (1) *encourage parental involvement in education (9.7); (2) support local and regional recycling and resource recovery programs (9.7); (3) encourage the increased use of renewable energy resources (9.4); (4) support mentoring programs in education (9.2); and (5) encourage the location of jobs near places where workforce housing exists, and link jobs and housing with convenient, affordable transit service (9.2).*

The five highest votes on the list of commitments from county supervisors are: (1) *encourage parental involvement in education (10.0); (2) develop plans to set priorities for natural resource preservation, including wetlands restoration and preservation, informed by best available science (10.0); (3) encourage the location of jobs near places where workforce housing exists, and link jobs and housing with convenient, affordable transit service (9.8); (4) seek opportunities to support*

and participate in local neighborhood social and cultural events (9.6); and (5) encourage economic development organizations in the region to invest in stimulating local entrepreneurship in identified neighborhoods that are in decline or at risk, while minimizing resident displacement (9.6).

The five highest votes on the list of commitments from all participants whose votes were recorded (145 persons) are: (1) *encourage parental involvement in education (9.4); (2) support local and regional recycling and resource recovery programs (9.1); (3) encourage the increased use of renewable energy resources (9.1); (4) encourage the location of jobs near places where workforce housing exists, and link jobs and housing with convenient, affordable transit service (9.0); and (5) encourage and support ongoing models of cooperation in the Bay Area (9.0).*

For more information on sustainability, the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development or the General Assembly voting results, visit the ABAG website, abagOnline, at <http://www.abag.ca.gov> and click on "What's New."

Announcing the Second Annual New California Media Awards Banquet

Recognizing journalistic excellence by reporters, photographers and publications

Thursday, May 27, 1999 6:30pm

The San Francisco Hilton Grand Ballroom - 333 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco

Master of Ceremonies: San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for youth. For more information, please call 415/438-4755.

And Don't miss the First-Ever 1999 CA Expo of Ethnic Media & Marketing

Thursday, May 27, 1999 from 9am to 5:30pm - Pier 35, San Francisco

This is a FREE event featuring over 150 ethnic media organizations, the audiences they serve and the advertisers that want to reach them

Look for unique perspectives on national and international news on the New CA Media website: <http://www.ncmonline.com>

Confronting Sprawl

In partnership with the Commonwealth Club of California, ABAG was pleased to present a special keynote presentation for the General Assembly on "Confronting Sprawl."

The discussion, moderated by former Bay Area Council President and CEO Angelo Siracusa, featured **Mayor Vera Katz of Portland**, **Councilmember Richard Conlin from Seattle** and **Councilmember Margie Matthews from San Jose**. The discussion was recorded for broadcast on National Public Radio and videotaped for distribution to public access stations around the Bay.

Each elected official provided a thorough status report on successful efforts to confront sprawl in their own communities.

In terms of looking at Portland and Seattle, it is clear that both cities started dealing with these issues years ago-- and they have instituted strong programs for incentives (to infill development) and disincentives (to sprawling suburban developments).

In comparison to the Bay Area, the most striking difference is the enforcement mechanisms available at the regional level, especially financial ones.

Copies of the audio or videotape may be borrowed from ABAG; if you are interested, please call Michelle Fadelli at 510/464-7922 or e-mail MichelleF@abag.ca.gov.

Regional Agencies Work on Transit-Oriented Development

As a founding member of the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development, ABAG is organizing the public sector to help government agencies at all levels to better coordinate their activities to achieve sustainability goals: environmental quality, social equity and economic vitality.

As part of this effort, five regional agencies (the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board) have been convened to investigate how they can work together to encourage more sustainable

development patterns. The group agreed that fostering compact development, particularly near transit access hubs (transit-oriented development) is a high priority for all five agencies. First priority will be given to brownfield sites and second priority to low-income areas, but the focus will not be limited to these areas.

As a first step in determining how the regional agencies can help encourage transit-oriented development, ABAG is exploring the potential for new infill development around Bay Area transit stations. As a pilot project for this effort, maps of **San Mateo County** showing the transit system (and lands within walking distance of them) have been prepared and circulated to city planning directors,

countywide agencies and transit providers. Map recipients were asked to comment on the potential for new compact development and redevelopment that exists around many CalTrain and BART stations in the county.

Initial discussions reveal considerable enthusiasm in local jurisdictions to foster new development near transit stations.

Possible future directions of this project include expanding similar research efforts to the rest of the Bay Area and taking a closer look at specific station areas to better establish how the regional agencies can get involved in encouraging transit-oriented development. Meanwhile, the regional agencies group will continue to meet in support of the Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area.

For more information, please contact, Deputy Executive Director Gary Binger at 510/464-7902.

Bay Area Housing Needs Determination

An Update on the Allocation of Regional Housing Needs



As previously reported, the regional housing needs determination process is underway at ABAG. The Housing Methodology Committee (HMC) and Peer Review groups are defining issues and developing a methodology to distribute the Regional Housing Need numbers (expected from the State on July 1, 1999).

The process of developing a methodology began with an HMC meeting on April 2, at which ABAG staff described the goals and objectives for the methodology process. During this overview meeting, staff from the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) provided insight into the State's responsibility of developing the initial regional allocations.

Issues of concern to the members of the HMC have been organized into three categories: Legislative Proposals, General Comments concerning the process, and Methodological Issues to be addressed.

Some concerns relating to the methodology have been identified: (1) the methodology should be clearly understandable; formulas used should be simple and easy to follow, (2) the methodology should address over/under concentration of low-income housing in jurisdictions and (3) staff should identify variables that have impacts on projection models and their respective weights.

So far, the committee process has been successful in generating discussion, both constructive and

informative. By engaging participation from a broad spectrum of groups (including elected officials, staff, housing advocates and others), an effective methodology can be developed representing concerns from all around the Bay.

The final meeting of the HMC will be on **June 4**, 10am-2pm, at the ABAG offices. The HMC will review a proposed methodology at that time for submittal to the ABAG Executive Board (at its **July 15** meeting).

ABAG intends to distribute draft numbers to each jurisdiction in the Bay Area during the month of August.

For more information, call ABAG senior planner Alex Amoroso at 510/464-7955 or e-mail AlexA@abag.ca.gov.

Rehabilitation of the Estuary

Fourth Biennial Conference Focuses on Long-Term Solutions

Non-indigenous species. Watersheds. Alluvial River Restoration. Salt Marshes. Wetland-Upland Interface. These are some of the topics of the fourth State of the Estuary Conference...

For three days in March, 800 people gathered at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco to discuss these and other issues vital to the rehabilitation of the San Francisco Estuary and its watersheds.

The biennial conference, sponsored by the San Francisco Estuary Project, ABAG and 70 other organizations, provides a regular assessment of the environmental health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary-- and an opportunity to evaluate progress in implementing the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).

This year's conference came at a critical time in the development of long-term solutions for restoring the ecological health of the Estuary, particularly in light of the work being done by the CALFED Bay-Delta program. The conference presentations helped establish a scientific foundation to better understand the significance of the Estuary's changing watersheds and the effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts.

Presentation Summaries

Conference participants received a 144-page Abstract Book, including brief summaries of oral presentations as well as abstracts of the conference "poster sessions" (a display of charts, graphs and photographs related to estuary research. *Copies of the Abstract may be obtained from the Estuary Project.*



"Creek Keepers" from Richmond High School receive a stipend to perform creek restoration projects and community outreach for the San Francisco Estuary Project.

Environmental Report Card

Another publication to come out of the conference, the Bay-Delta Environmental Report Card, is an assessment of progress in implementing the CCMP's recommended actions. The 1996-99 report card evaluated progress on ten priority issues: wetlands; program integration; urban runoff; watershed management; exotic species; estuary awareness; economic incentives; CCMP implementation; regional monitoring; and including the CCMP in other programs.

Overall, implementation is considered to be "moderate." The most progress has been made in public awareness about the need to protect the natural resources of the estuary.

Key Ecological Indicators

The third publication produced for the conference, the Key Indicators Report, is a first attempt by the Environmental Defense Fund and others to establish significant indicators of "ecological health" for the San Francisco Estuary. The indicators are: habitat diversity; habitat quantity and location;

water quality; marsh health; river health; pre- and post-dam flow conditions; water column productivity and native biota reproduction; fish index; bird index; wetland and riparian vegetation; fragmentation-sensitive species; and species that might abound with restoration.

Baylands Ecosystem Goals

A gala reception was held to celebrate the release of the Baylands Ecosystem Goals Report. The report, a culmination of three years work by regional scientists, presents a long-term vision of the habitats needed to sustain healthy populations of fish and wildlife.

State of the Estuary Report

The final publication associated with the conference, the State of the Estuary Report, will be published this summer and will contain summaries of the oral and written presentations, as well as additional research.

For more information, go to <http://www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/sfep> or call Marcia Brockbank at 510/622-2325 or e-mail MarciaB@abag.ca.gov.

Housing Action Team Has 100% Success Rate in San Mateo County

SAMCEDA, the **San Mateo County** Economic Development Association, has been addressing the challenges affecting the economic health and quality of life in San Mateo County. To address the county's housing needs, a Housing Action Team was created to facilitate the development of new housing for a growing workforce.

The Action Team has succeeded in endorsing and advocating the approval of 714 units since June 1998. Members participate at study sessions, planning commission hearings, appeals and city council meetings. To date, 100 percent of the proposed developments endorsed by the team have been approved.

The Action Team supports proposed developments of 25 units or more of new housing based on its established criteria. It also supports developments which contain at least 10%-30% affordable housing units.

By being involved in redevelopment activities by individual cities during the initial planning stages of a project, the Action Team has an early opportunity to encourage and maximize the number of new housing units to the housing supply throughout San Mateo County.

For more information, contact Jim Bigelow, Director of Transportation & Housing Policy at 650/590-3183 or visit the SAMCEDA website at www.samceda.org/Housing.html

Smart Permitting Means Online Access -- Thanks to Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network

Silicon Valley continues to grow dramatically. As its population increases, so will its housing needs. In an effort to minimize the bureaucratic red tape associated with new construction, Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network is using technology to streamline the building permit and community development processes.

The program, *Smart Permit*, establishes a uniform system of city, county and regional plans for community and economic development. Its mission is to bring together the public and private sectors, civic entrepreneurs and community resources to electronically optimize building permit and community development processes within Silicon Valley.

Smart Permit allows for applications, submittal packages, tracking, issuing and servicing building permits through the Internet. By developing technology and telecommunications tools, this program makes the vast amount of information created by planners, architects, engineers and builders easily accessible.

Six pilot cities — **Milpitas, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Carlos, Santa Clara and Sunnyvale** — have implemented the *Smart Permit* components. As members of a 10-city buying consortium, these cities have taken a leadership role in implementing permit process improvements, developing the regional systems requirements and reviewing permit software vendors.

For more information, contact Randy Tsuda, Project Director at 408 / 271-7213, or visit the Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network website at www.jointventure.org/initiatives/smartpermit/index.html

Alive After 5:

Redevelopment Agency Adds Life to Downtown San Rafael

Many older downtown areas share a set of common characteristics: deteriorating and vacant buildings, often situated on contaminated soil left behind by companies that abandoned the premises (and local employees) for a newer site in a distant suburb. The neighborhoods experience either blight or gentrification, while the downtown area as a whole becomes a ghost town after 5 p.m.

Not in the City of San Rafael!

The Redevelopment Agency in San Rafael has been busy implementing its

long-term, comprehensive vision of revitalizing its downtown through redevelopment projects. These projects create and/or improve the city's housing stock, public infrastructure, business opportunities and entertainment venues.

For example, the Fair, Isaac Office Park was previously a toxic site that had been empty for years. The successful project kept the company in San Rafael and has created 1,500 new jobs.

The historic Rafael Theater underwent a \$6.8 million renovation. The local landmark

is attracting movie-goers back downtown.

An empty Macy's department store is now converted to mixed-use including retail, offices and apartments.

Redevelopment projects are now helping to jump-start a stalled downtown economy and attract people to live and work (the "Alive After 5" concept) in the heart of San Rafael.

For more information on this successful program, call Senior Development Specialist Nancy Mackle at 415/485-3460 or see the Redevelopment Agency website at www.cityofsanrafael.org/redev_info.htm

March 2000 Ballot Update

In addition to the six propositions already qualified for the March 2000 primary ballot, (Service Matters, Mar/April 1999) there are eight currently in circulation and 14 pending with the Attorney General. Those in circulation are:

- ***Ombudsman General** - state/local offices to review constitutional matters.
- ***None of the Above Ballot Option** - required for all state elective offices.
- ***Public Grants to Parochial Schools** - \$3 - \$3,000 per child annually.
- ***Vehicle License Fees** - reduced to vehicle values above \$10,000.
- ***Private Contractors** - state/locals could hire private firms for public works.
- ***Majority Vote for School Bonds** - no 2/3 vote for building construction.
- ***Repeal of Tobacco Tax** - would repeal Prop. 10 surcharge.

For more information, go to the California Secretary of State's website at <http://www.ss.ca.gov>.

New Reports from the Legislative Analyst's Office

Several new reports are available from the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), including: Floor Packet on Senate Budget Bill; Sliding Scale COLA's to Equalize School District Funding; Child Support Enforcement/Fiscal Perspective (How to Improve Performance); March 1999 CA Education Update (K-12 Attendance; federal funding).

For more information, visit the LAO website at <http://www.lao.ca.gov> or call 916/445-4656.

Implementation of Prop. 10: The Tobacco Tax

If you are interested in Proposition 10 (the tobacco tax), be sure to get a copy of a new Budget Brief from the California Budget Project. *The Implementation of Proposition 10: The California Children and Families First Act of 1998* provides an overview of the proposition, reviews the literature on early childhood development, outlines current state spending on young children, and presents a set of recommendations to guide the local implementation commissions.

You may view this report online at <http://www.cbp.org> or order a copy directly from the California Budget Project for \$1.50 by calling 916/444-0500.

Understanding the State Budget Process

Another useful publication from the California Budget Project is *Dollars and Democracy: An Advocate's Guide to the California State Budget Process*. The report is designed to help non-experts understand and become effective participants in the state budget process.

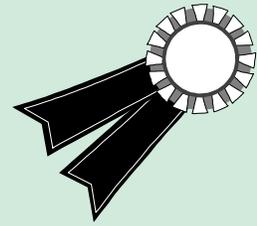
You may order this 50-page report directly from the California Budget Project for \$6.47 by calling 916/444-0500. (Volume discounts are available.)

Global Finances and the Bay Area

An open discussion on the issue of *Global Financial Turmoil: Implications for the Bay Area* has been published by the Bay Area Economic Forum (BAEF). The 11-page booklet contains a transcript of the October 1998 discussion among Gerhard Casper (President, Stanford University), Dr. Chang-Lin Tien (UC Berkeley), Dr. Bruce Magid (Bank of America), Robert Parry (Federal Reserve Bank), Richard Kashnow (Raychem Corporation), Samuel Armacost (SRI International) and Sean Randolph (BAEF).

To request a copy, call the Bay Area Economic Forum at 415/981-7117.

Up
Heads



Congratulations!

to the
**San Francisco Bay
Trail Project**
and the
CA Conservation Corps
in honor of a

Trail Program Merit Award

- from the
- * CA Trails & Greenways Foundation
 - * CA Recreational Trails Committee
 - * Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
 - * CA Trails Coordinators

Awarded at the 16th Annual
California Trails Conference
Asilomar Conference Center
April 16-18, 1999

For more information about the San
Francisco Bay Trail, please contact
Janet McBride at 510/464-7935.

MA

May 19-12:00 noon
 ABAGROWER
 Executive Committee Meeting
 Metro Center, ABAG Room 106B

May 20-10:00 am.
 Joint Aquatic Resources Permit
 Application (JARPA) Introductory Meeting
 San Mateo Co. Gov't Center, Room 401
 Redwood City

May 20-3:30 pm.
 Legislative & Governmental Organization
 Metro Center, ABAG Room 106B

May 20-5:00 pm.
 Finance & Personnel Committee
 Metro Center, ABAG Room 102A

May 20-7:30 pm.
 EXECUTIVE BOARD
 Metro Center Auditorium

May 21-10:00 am.
 Homebase Regional Steering Committee
 Metro Center Auditorium

May 27-9:00 am.
 Census 2000 Data Products Meeting
 Metro Center Auditorium

JUNE

June 2-1:00 pm.
 Regional Planning Committee
 Metro Center Auditorium

June 4-8:30 am.
 Aviation Trends Workshop
 Metro Center Auditorium

June 16-12:00 noon
 ABAGROWER
 Executive Committee Meeting
 Alameda County Public Works,
 Room 230C Hayward

June 17-3:30 pm.
 Legislative & Governmental Organization
 Metro Center, ABAG Room 106B

ABAG Housing Video Town Hall Meetings

How is the San Francisco Bay Area going to accommodate another 1.7 million people in the next 20 years? What are we going to do to ensure that housing prices don't squeeze out all but the wealthiest-- and traffic congestion doesn't sap our economic strength (and personal stamina)?

That's the subject of "**Hometown Blues: the Struggle Over Growth in the Bay Area**," a 30-minute documentary produced by ABAG that will be shown on public television and cable access stations in the Bay Area beginning in May. A live townhall meeting will follow each airing to engage the public in a discussion about growth-related decisions we face throughout the region. Tune in or come down to join in the discussion. The program will air:

- **Thursday, May 13 at 7 p.m. - Petaluma's City Council Chambers**, 11 English St., Petaluma. Residents of Petaluma will also be able to tune in to Petaluma Cable Access Channel 63 to watch the program. The panel discussion will be moderated by **Dick Spotswood**, former Mayor of Mill Valley and longtime Marin County volunteer.

- **Wednesday, May 26 at 8 p.m. - Contra Costa Television** at 10 Douglas Drive, Martinez. Seating at the facility will be limited; call ABAG at 510/464-7900 to reserve a seat. Tune in to CCTV* to watch the program and join in on the discussion by phone. The panel will be moderated by **Richmond Mayor Rosemary Corbin**.

- **Thursday, May 27 at 8 p.m. - KTEH-TV Channel 54** at 1585 Schallenberger Road, San Jose. Seating at the facility will be limited; call ABAG at 510/464-7900 to reserve a seat. The discussion will be moderated by **Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian**.

* Most residents of Contra Costa County will find CTTV on channel 19. In Clayton, Concord, Hercules, Richmond, El Sobrante, El Cerrito and the unincorporated areas near those cities, tune to channel 18; in Danville, it is channel 10; and in Antioch, Bay Point, Pittsburg, Pinole, Rodeo, Crockett, and the unincorporated areas near those cities, channel 27.



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