

Service Matters



HAPPY TRAILS: \$7.5 MILLION TO EXTEND THE BAY TRAIL!

The Bay Trail Project anticipates great forward momentum as a result of an historic \$7.5 million allocation in this year's State budget. The funds will be available from the State Coastal Conservancy and will allow a new round of the Bay Trail's award-winning competitive grant program. "This funding offers a tremendous opportunity to build numerous new miles of trail and overcome some long-standing obstacles to trail completion," said Janet McBride, ABAG Bay Trail Manager.

The Bay Trail, created by State legislation in 1987 and formalized with a plan adopted by ABAG in 1989, will be a continuous shoreline recreational pathway that will ring San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. To date, just over half of the 400-mile trail network is complete.

The Bay Trail enjoys strong support in the Legislature and with the Governor, as evidenced by the latest funding. This year's allocation is triple last year's \$2.5 million allocation. Special recognition and a huge "thank you" go to Senator Liz Figueroa (D-Fremont) who has served as legislative sponsor, carrying out the legacy of (then) Senator Bill Lockyer who first envisioned the Bay Trail. The entire Bay Area delegation has provided extraordinary support, especially Senator Byron Sher and Assemblymembers Ellen Corbett, Carole Migden, Kevin Shelley and Tom Torlakson. Thanks also go to the many cities and friends who wrote letters to ensure support in Sacramento. Recognition also goes to ABAG Bay Trail Project Manager Janet McBride and staff for their successful advocacy and close partnership with the Coastal Conservancy.

Under the competitive grant program, local jurisdictions develop key Bay Trail segments and employ the California Conservation Corps, where possible, to build, landscape and maintain the trail. The program leverages State dollars with local public and private matching funds and in-kind contributions to maximize new trail development.



Shoreline Park Named Millennium Trail

San Rafael's Bay Trail Shoreline Park was recently honored with a Community Millennium Trail designation by the White House Millennium Council. Shoreline Park was selected because it reflects the White House Council's theme "Honor the Past, Imagine the Future." The 2.3 mile trail has been improved with a pedestrian and bicycle path, gravel jogging path, fencing, sitting areas and native landscaping.

For more information, contact Janet McBride, Bay Trail Project Manager at 510/464-7935.

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ABAG FALL GA — THE GENE AGE: BAY AREA BIOTECH BOOM

The Bay Area is home to the oldest and largest biotechnology cluster in the world and the ABAG Fall General Assembly will examine the implications of this dominance. Co-sponsored by the Bay Area Bioscience Center (BABC), the General Assembly will translate the biotech boom into Bay Area realities. Attendees will hear from Biotech industry experts, scientists and local government as they discuss the impact of biotechnology and related issues like jobs, housing, research community, public policy, local government partnerships and future trends.

Local officials like Walnut Creek Councilmember Gwen Regalia, San Mateo County Supervisor Mary Griffin, Campbell Councilmember Dan Furtado, Vacaville Mayor David Fleming, Richmond Mayor Rosemary Corbin and more will share their local government perspective about economic development and jurisdictional partnerships. A media panel will spotlight coverage of high profile issues like *geezer boom*, *gene valley*, wet labs and chips. The panel will feature KPIX News Anchor Hank Plante, San Francisco Chronicle Columnist Tom Abate, San Jose Mercury Business Reporter Peter Delevett and Cynthia Robins Roth from the San Francisco Independent.

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Chancellor Robert Berdahl, University of California at Berkeley, and futurist Walter Anderson, Vice President of The Meridian International Institute will keynote looking at the past, present and future of bioscience. Other speakers will include Dr. Zachary Hall, Vice-Chancellor for Research UCSF; John Martin, CEO Gilead Sciences; Kathy Ordenez, President Roche Molecular Systems; Suzanne Huttner, Director UC Systemwide Biotechnology Research and Education Program; Glenn Nedwin, CEO Nova Nordisk; Wolf-Dieter Busse, Senior Vice President Bayer Biotechnology; Scott Morrison, Life Sciences Partner, Ernst & Young; and many more.

**THE BAY AREA LEADS THE WORLD
IN BIOTECHNOLOGY AND
BIOSCIENCE RESEARCH**

This conference will also include a special reception, "Biotech on Display" where attendees can get the DNA of the industry and meet with leading Biotech industry representatives. For information or to make reservations, call ABAG at 510/464-7900. The conference program and an electronic reservation form will be posted at www.abag.ca.gov by September 1. Special rates are available through electronic reservations. Businesses and local governments are encouraged to set up a reception display table (fee charged) to showcase their business or community.

 ABAG FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AND
 BAY AREA BIOSCIENCE CENTER'S
8TH ANNUAL GENE ACRES

**The Gene Age:
The Bay Area Biotech
Boom**

October 5-6, 2000

The Fairmont Hotel
950 Mason Street
San Francisco

REGIONAL SMART GROWTH SHAPING THE FUTURE

Projections are not destiny, but they indicate the shape of the future. ABAG's *Projections 2000* forecast that the Bay Area will see one million new residents and one million new jobs over the next 20 years. The challenge is determining which future will occur: one where population and job growth create more sprawl, congestion and environmental problems or one where smart growth creates a more vibrant and livable region. The Bay Area's regional agencies, in collaboration with Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development, The Urban Land Institute and The Bay Area Transportation & Land Use Coalition, together with local governments, are preparing to meet this challenge head on.

A Steering Committee comprised of representatives from ABAG, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) are formulating a potential new approach for planning future growth in the Bay Area. Their work plan has two fundamental goals: land use changes and an incentive plan supported by local government, and a set of smart growth projections that would be an action blueprint for the regional agencies and State Legislature.

Engaging local leaders and the public in a strategic reexamination of growth will be a key focus over the next months and is considered crucial to crafting a plan that can and will be implemented. Nine countywide workshops, with a series of follow-up sessions with local elected officials and key local staff, will be conducted through June 2001. Community participants will identify the specific areas in each jurisdiction that are appropriate locations for new and/or intensified urban growth and indicate the areas that should be considered off-limits for development. Citizens and local leaders will also help define the kind of fiscal and regulatory incentives needed to shift the course of development in their area.

A key product of these workshops and meetings will be a series of maps showing where and how projected growth could be accommodated, a regional incentive program



based on local jurisdiction needs, and a set of preliminary strategies for shifting development from the status quo to a different pattern. From these results, regional effects will be analyzed and two different 25-year forecasts prepared: a current trends (baseline) scenario (*Projections 2002*), and an alternative, ABAG smart growth forecast. These two different scenarios will be analyzed in terms of their effect on the overall supply of housing, open space and other quality of life measures such as community livability, congestion and air quality. These two forecasts will be presented to a landmark joint summit of all the boards of the regional agencies, tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2002.

For more information, contact Victoria Eisen, ABAG Senior Planner, 510/464-7960 or VictoriaE@abag.ca.gov.

The Bay Area is made up of subregions with unique characteristics and special needs. To address these needs, smart growth planning precedents are in progress with some recently completed. Among those groundbreaking efforts are Santa Clara County Valley Transportation Authority's transportation/land use efforts, Santa Clara County's housing opportunities survey, Contra Costa's vacant and underutilized land survey, the San Mateo County transit-oriented development incentive program, the San Francisco transit-oriented development specific plan process, the Sonoma/Marin transit-oriented development corridor plan, and the Solano County limitation on urban development outside of incorporated areas.

CITIES RECEIVE HELEN PUTNAM AWARDS

Congratulations to the cities of **Concord, Milpitas, Novato, Vacaville**, and the cities of **San Mateo County** who were honored with the distinguished Helen Putnam Award for Excellence issued by the League of California Cities. Bay Area cities swept the vote and captured many of the grand prizes in categories such as **Economic and Community Development, Public Safety, Public Works and Transportation, and Youth Development.**

This California Cities' award recognizes city governments' innovations and their resourceful solutions to societal problems and local issues. Thirty cities were honored with awards, chosen from two hundred and forty-nine nominated city governments.

The city of **Vacaville** was awarded the **Grand Prize** in the category of youth development for its Personal Responsibility Campaign. This campaign pulls the community together by working with school districts, business community, county agencies, local non-profits and churches in an effort to increase youths' ability to combat negative social pressures.

The Hwy 237/I-880 Interchange Reconstruction Public Awareness Program created by the city of **Milpitas** emerged in response to the construction activities in the busy gateway of the Silicon Valley and their affect on commuters. Milpitas was awarded the **Grand Prize** in the category of public works and transportation for this program.

All twenty cities and the five fire protection districts within San Mateo County joined forces to create its San Mateo County Pre-Hospital Advanced Life Support Services. This joint effort was awarded with the **Grand Prize** in the category of public safety.

Through a creative planning process, the city of **Novato** crafted the Hamilton Army Airfield Base Conversion Plan that converts a doomed military property into a flourishing community area offering a wide range of jobs and low cost housing. Novato received the **Grand Prize** in the category of economic and community development for this successful community expansion/restoration.

The city of **Concord** was honored with the **Award for Excellence** in the category of employee work environment for its GOAL Training Program to motivate new and current employees.

NEW STUDY TO BE RELEASED BY THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

What are the economic benefits of regional parks and how do you position them in the East Bay planning equation? The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) has addressed this critical question by commissioning a regional economic analysis to assess and document the quality of life and economic contribution of the Regional Park District to the East Bay and region.

Walter F. Kieser, Managing Principal of Economic & Planning Systems (EPS), is overseeing the study that will quantify economic benefits of the regional parks, documenting the benefits to quality of life, property values, health and education, ecosystem preservation, park user expenditures and agency investment and expenditure impacts. The study will also examine the expected new demand for parks and open space in the context of projected demographic changes and economic growth. This analysis is particularly timely in light of the significant recent public/private partnership action plans for balanc-

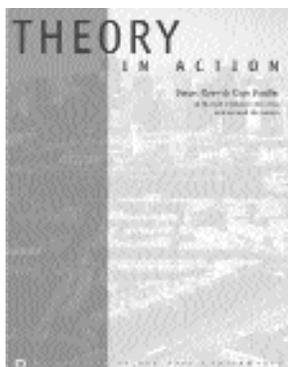
ing the East Bay's economic growth, open space and agricultural preservation, housing, transportation and education needs.

Regional Economic Forum

The study will be released at a luncheon forum on **Thursday, November 2**, at the Brazil Building in Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley. ABAG joins the Economic Development Alliance for Business (EDAB), the Contra Costa Council, the Regional Parks Foundation and EBRPD in co-sponsoring this second regional economic forum. The forum begins at 11 am and will conclude after lunch at 1 pm. Walter Kieser will present his findings, followed by open discussion and questions. All participants will receive a copy of the report.

This event is of particular interest to elected and appointed local officials, city managers, planners, parks and recreation staff, and business and environmental leaders. There is no cost to participants, but seating at the Brazil Building is limited to 150. Call EBRPD's Assistant General Manager for Public Affairs, Rosemary Cameron, at 510/544-2003 for more information, to request an invitation and to reserve a seat.

SMART GROWTH AWARD FROM HUD



Theory in Action: Smart Growth Case Studies created by ABAG was declared a local “Best Practices” winner by the San Francisco Regional Office of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

“Finding new and innovative ways to address old problems” was one of the criteria used by

HUD to recognize the “Best Practices” of programs and resources that make a difference in housing, economic development, jobs, and homeownership. *Theory in Action: Smart Growth Case Studies*, does just that.

“Theory in Action” presents case studies addressing the multi-dimensional challenges of land use, housing and transportation. It profiles more than fifty smart growth initiatives, such as compact development, urban revitalization, affordable housing and open space protection, implemented by states, counties, cities, towns, nonprofit organizations and businesses around the country. “Theory in Action” is a guide to spur creative thinking and innovation in how our communities steer toward smart growth.

Distributed at ABAG’s Spring General Assembly, copies are available for \$10. To order call 510/464-7900 or visit our website at www.abag.ca.gov.

BLUEPRINT FOR BAY AREA HOUSING: HOUSING ELEMENT IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS

The *Blueprint for Bay Area Housing* is an outstanding handbook for addressing the critical housing shortage in the Bay Area. ABAG has joined with Nonprofit Housing of Northern California (NPH), Bay Area Council, Green Belt Alliance and Home Builders Association of Northern California, to publish a revised, updated second edition. *The Blueprint for Bay Area Housing* helps local government initiate local housing and land use programs that increase the affordability and availability of housing in the Bay Area.

This source book clearly covers how local government reviews and revises its housing element. Using case studies and concrete guidelines, *The Blueprint* provides a directory of local housing programs, looks at regulatory and land use techniques, details special housing innovations, outlines affordable housing tools, and addresses the issues of homelessness. The new edition will be available at the end of October, 2000, and a complimentary copy will be provided to each ABAG member jurisdiction. Additional copies can be purchased.

Contact Alex Amoroso, ABAG Planner, 510/464-7955 for more information.

STAND UP TO THE QUAKE: GET YOUR HOME IN SHAPE

Widely acclaimed **Stand Up to the Quake** is now available in Spanish: *Hagale Frente al Terremoto: Prepare Su Casa*.

In this 17-minute video produced by ABAG, three Bay Area families describe in Spanish how they retrofitted their very different homes. These families show viewers how they can obtain the information they need to retrofit their homes themselves, how to hire a contractor and/or engineer, and how to get grants or low-interest loans to pay for the work.

More than 300 copies of the English version have been distributed and continue to be ordered by individuals throughout the region and State. A Vietnamese translation will be available in October.

Copies of the video are available from ABAG for \$10.83 (which includes sales tax, shipping and handling) by calling 510/464-7900 or visiting our website at www.abag.ca.gov. For more information on the video, call Jeanne Perkins, Earthquake Program Manager, at 510/464-7934 or e-mail JeanneP@abag.ca.gov.



CHALK, TALK AND BOOKS MEETS TECHNOLOGY

In mid-July ABAG's Online Hazmat School successfully launched an online, 24-hour Hazwoper Course. Support from local government, industry and organizations that mandate training for employees who deal with hazardous substances has been high. Online training breaks down the barriers of classroom study. It provides a training site that is accessible anytime, anywhere. As a participant from Chico praised, "the cost and convenience of studying on my own schedule, and not having to travel to a classroom," are invaluable.

The Hazwoper Internet course fulfills the requirements for certification as an "Occasional Site Worker." ABAG's course helps workplaces and employees (like an engineer, project manager or a surveyor) who occasionally work at hazardous waste clean-up sites become certified efficiently. Participants receive a hardcover textbook, e-

mail consultation with instructors, online text, annual refresher reminders, useful reference links, and three months to finish the course. The instructor monitors student progress and there is student access to a class home page providing opportunities to interact and absorb the materials at one's own pace and schedule. This class is taught by Paul Gantt, President, and his team from Safety Compliance Management, who are instructors to major corporations and Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.

For more information and class description, go to www.hazmatschool.com. For course outlines and course listings provided by ABAG Training Center, go to www.abag.ca.gov/training or contact Terry Bursztynsky, Director of Training Services and Online Training at 510/464-7964.

SONOMA COUNTY COMMUTER WORKFORCE LOGS ON

Who is commuting from Sonoma County to work and why? The Sonoma County City Managers' Association, which includes representatives from Sonoma County's nine incorporated cities, conducted a computerized poll throughout May to learn the answer to these questions. Funded by ABAG and the Job Creation Investment Fund (JCIF), the "Sonoma County Commuter Workforce Characteristic Study" was crafted to provide background information to county and city management and local employers about ways to tap into and employ this commuter workforce. To do this it was critical to take the pulse of Sonoma County residents who travel outside of the County to work and ask why they commute and what conditions would determine their taking local jobs.

More than 300 commuters logged on with some surprising answers. They answered a 25-question computer survey prepared by CommunityPoll.com who was engaged to conduct the commuter research. County representative Charmaine Spouder and Chabin Concepts marketed the online survey, setting up e-mail trees, advertisements, business bookmarks and electronic signage aimed at getting commuters to log on and sound off. Commuters were asked about their jobs, commuting habits, occupational skills, job satisfaction and how interested they would be in a Sonoma County job.

Their responses revealed three key facts: (1) an overwhelming majority of respondents indicated a high level of dissatisfaction with commuting ; (2) they were generally satisfied with their current jobs; **however**, (3) a significant number of those who are satisfied with their jobs and dissatisfied with their commute would be interested in a Sonoma job if the benefits matched their current job; and a meaningful number would be interested in a Sonoma County job, even if the salary was slightly less.

Another interesting fact emerged. Commuters gave a high level of importance to potentially low cost forms of compensation or incentives that would cause them to change jobs so that they could live and work within Sonoma County. Flextime and telecommuting were rated almost as high as financial incentives. This finding could help Sonoma County employers craft a better employee attraction package at lesser cost than financial incentives.

Most commuters responded that they chose to live in Sonoma County because they liked the "natural surroundings and environment" and they wanted to work there as well. Additional findings will be unveiled at future Sonoma County meetings.

A SPECIAL FAREWELL



Gary Binger, ABAG Deputy Executive Director and Planning Director, will be leaving ABAG in September to take on smart growth at the Urban Land Institute as Director of their California Smart Growth Initiative. "With great regret, we say farewell and recognize that Gary's tremendous knowledge and expertise will now be focused statewide," said Eugene Leong, ABAG Executive Director.

In the 13 years Gary has served ABAG and the region, he has been a guiding force behind a tremendous variety of projects from regional planning for economic development, transportation and housing and jobs balance to the Inter-Regional Partnership Program. His responsibilities have involved initiating and directing research and rec-

ommendations on regional and local issues relating to land use, housing supply and affordability, economic vitality, air and water quality, seismic safety, and growth management. He has been instrumental in facilitating interjurisdictional coordination of conservation and development policies and representing regional policy to federal, state, and local governments.

He has also taken his experience and expertise and translated it to the academic arena. Besides serving as a lecturer in Urban Planning and Environmental design at UC Berkeley, Sonoma, Davis and San Francisco State, he has provided lectures on developing a recreational trail along the shoreline in Osaka, Japan, and coordinated a series of videos dealing with the management of modern cities for the U.S.-China Distance Education Project for University of California, Berkeley, Worldwide Extension.

Gary Binger is more than a catalog of achievements. He has given energy, creativity and friendship to ABAG. He will be sorely missed.

ABAG LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AB 2300 (Flores) Joint Powers Authority/Marks-Roos Act Bonds:

This bill proposes to create new procedures for validating Mark-Roos Act Bonds, requiring a JPA to serve the Attorney General and State Treasurer with copies of the validation suit and the ability to delay the issuance of the bond. The usefulness of this financing mechanism is of great importance to the Agency and its member Cities and Counties. The Legislation & Governmental Organization Committee unanimously approved the following recommendation from Staff: *Watch, need for modification or amendment.*

AB 2140 (Keeley) Regional Transportation Plans:

Would add requirements for the policy and financial elements of a regional transportation plan, limiting revised requirements to transportation planning agencies with populations exceeding 200,000. *Support*

AB 2430 (Wiggins) Transfer Of Regional Housing Needs/Napa County:

Allows Napa County to meet up to 20% of its identified housing need for low income housing by committing county funds to affordable housing projects within the city limits of one or more cities in the county. *Support*

SB 1629 (Sher) Highways - Pedestrian and Bicycle Access:

Requires bicycle and pedestrian access on all highways and new bridges constructed after a specified date, unless exceptions are found by the responsible agency after a public hearing. Exempts existing toll bridge projects/retrofits from bill provision. *Support with Modifications*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

September 2000

13 - 10:00 a.m.
Claims Committee Meeting
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

18-24 - National Pollution
Prevention Week

20 - 12:00 Noon
ABAG POWER Meeting
Metro Center, ABAG Room 106B

21 - 3:30 p.m.
Legislative & Governmental
Organization Committee
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 106B

21 - 5:00 p.m.
Finance & Personnel Committee
MetroCenter, ABAG Room 102A

21 - 7:30 p.m.
Executive Board
MetroCenter, Auditorium

22 - 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
ABAG Services Program
Fall 2000 Golf Outing
Crystal Springs Golf Course,
Burlingame

29 - 10:00 a.m.
Regional Steering Committee on
Homelessness & Housing
MetroCenter, Room 171

October 2000

5-6 - 8:00 a.m.
Fall General Assembly
**THE GENE AGE:
Bay Area
Biotech Boom**
Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco

CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM SCIENCE CONFERENCE 2000

In coordination with SF Estuary Project,
Department of Water Resources, US
Geological Survey, UC Davis, SFEI, a forum
presenting research and strategies on climate
variability, salmonids, drinking water quality,
tidal wetlands, contaminants, hydrodynamics,
and more.

October 3-5, 2000
Sacramento Convention Center

For extended program information visit the
website!
www.iep.water.ca.gov/calfed/sciconf

Notable Numbers....

2020

Youngest baby boomers will be 56
and one of every three Californians
over the age of 50.

1.9%

The unemployment rate in the San
Francisco-Marin-San Mateo labor mar-
ket in February, 2000...the lowest
rate in recorded history.

2.2%

Unemployment rate for Santa Clara
County, a record low.

167%

New home building up in San Mateo
County

81%

New residential development up in
Santa Clara County.

46%

New residential development up in
Alameda-Contra Costa County.

17%

New residential development surged
for the entire Bay Area region.

Source:

*California Office of the Controller, CA Dept. of
Finance and Public Policy Institute of California*



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