

# Cut Your Trash in Half

## AB 939 Mandate for the Year 2000: Reduce Waste Disposal by 50 Percent

The new year brings us one step closer to the millenium and the infamous Y2K computer crisis. It also means that local governments only have one year to hit the 50 percent mark on the state's solid waste reduction mandate.

In an attempt to prolong the life of California's near-capacity landfills, the State Legislature passed The California Waste Management Act (AB939) in 1989. The law requires cities and counties to reduce the amount of garbage they dump into area landfills by 25 percent in 1995 and 50 percent by 2000 through recycling, source reduction and composting.

**Alameda County** upped the ante even higher. In 1990, voters approved Measure D, a county charter amendment requiring local jurisdictions, to collectively reduce waste disposal by 75 percent by the year 2010.

According to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, it will take until spring of 1999 for the agency to review and approve the waste diversion figures submitted by all of the Bay Area's local jurisdictions for 1995. However, it appears that most, if not all, of the region's local governments have achieved the 1995 target and are striving toward the 2000 mark. As of early December, 9 of the 35 jurisdictions whose numbers had been approved had exceeded the 50 percent mark: **Alameda, unincorporated Alameda County, Albany, Emeryville, Fremont, Monte Sereno, Santa Clara, Saratoga, and Sunnyvale.** **Los Altos Hills** and **Palo Alto** were just a step behind at 48 and 49 percent respectively. Most cities report numbers in the 30 to 40 percent range.

Wringing out the last 10 or 20 percentage points is going to be more difficult, say local waste management program coordinators. However, local jurisdictions have some breathing room as a result of SB 1066 (1997) that allows cities and counties to apply for an extension of up to six years under certain circumstances.

"The low hanging fruit has been taken," says Ken Miller, waste reduction/recycling coordinator for the **City of Napa.** "The easy stuff is gone. Now we have to go to bigger items in the waste stream that cost [money] to process."

For Miller, that means expanding his city's repertoire from composting, curbside recycling, and

greenwaste programs to include removal of construction and demolition materials such as wood shingles.

The City of Napa is working with the Napa Garbage Service to develop a roofing material recycling program. The city estimates it can recycle 20-25 tons of roof/wood waste per day (or approximately 6,500 tons annually)—a significant step given that, by the city's calculations, Napa diverted nearly 41,000 tons (42 percent) of the garbage it generated in 1997.

The **Sonoma County Waste Management Agency** has had a waste wood processing program in place for several years. Disposal companies that separate wood waste from the rest of their garbage pay a reduced tipping fee. The wood is chipped for sale as mulch and bio-fuel. Since 1993, when the program began, the tonnage of wood chips generated and sold by the agency has increased, netting the agency nearly \$45,000 in profits in fiscal year 1996-97.

**San Francisco** also hopes to achieve greater savings on the construction front by educating contractors about the financial benefits of recycling. "In many cases, contractors haven't thought about recycling," says David Assmann, senior administrator of San Francisco's solid waste management program. Given the current construction boom, Assmann notes there is plenty of potential for waste reduction in San Francisco.

Not surprisingly, **Alameda County** has been the most aggressive on construction and demolition recycling. In addition to hiking the county's waste diversion goal, Measure D also imposed a \$6 per ton landfill surcharge, which has given the **Alameda County Waste Management Authority** the flexibility to fund a number of innovative programs.

The Authority has been working with Raisch Products, one of the largest construction materials recyclers in the

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9countiesand100cities.

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Christine Cleary, Contributing Writer  
Laura Stuchinsky, Contributing Writer  
Debbi Nichols, Production Coordinator

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>

# The Revival of Affirmative Action

## Proposition 209's First Substantive Court Challenge

In a setback for Governor Pete Wilson, Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Lloyd Connelly recently upheld three critical affirmative action laws containing hiring goals for public employees throughout California. However, the judge struck down one state public contracting statute and language in another for containing preferences based on race and gender.

Governor Wilson and University of California Regent Ward Connerly filed suit in 1995 seeking to overturn the state's five leading affirmative action laws, arguing that these state laws were illegal under Proposition 209, the successful 1996 ballot measure that called for the elimination of race and gender preferences in state and local government contracts, hiring, and college admissions.

***"No race- or gender-based preferences in the hiring process are mandated, authorized or encouraged by either the statutory program or SPB (State Personnel Board) procedures." – Judge Connelly***

The court ruled that public employment statutes were designed to broaden the employment prospects for women and minorities. In his decision, Connelly wrote, "No race- or gender-based preferences in the hiring process are mandated, authorized or encouraged by either the statutory program or SPB (State Personnel Board) procedures." Hiring goals and time tables may be used "to assess progress in equalizing employment opportunities and not as quotas which must be met," wrote Connelly. This is the first substantive ruling based on the application of Prop 209.

Wilson issued a statement criticizing the court's unwillingness to strike down race- and gender-based preferences in public employment, and said the ruling would be appealed. Wilson argued that the laws have cost taxpayers millions of dollars by preventing governments from awarding contracts to the lowest bidders.

Supporters of affirmative action hope the ruling will set the tone for similar pending challenges.

You can access the ruling at <http://www.sna.com/courts>. (Look for *Pete Wilson, et al. v. State Personnel Board, et al. (No. 96Cs0182)* at the top of the homepage.)

### Statutes That Were Upheld:

- The State Personnel Board can *monitor* the number of women and minorities in the state's work force, identifying "under-utilization" compared with similar occupations in the private sector, and establish goals and timetables for hiring more women and minorities for those positions.
- Community colleges can adopt programs to recruit, employ and promote professors or staff who are under-represented compared with the district's general population.
- Firms bidding on contracts with the California Lottery can include plans for subcontracting with socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses.

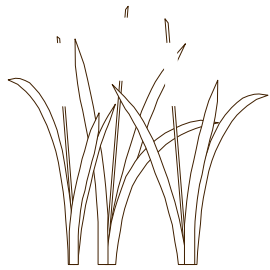
### Statutes That Were Struck Down:

- In awarding public contracts, the state *cannot* establish goals of hiring 15% minority business enterprises (MBE) and 15% women business enterprises (WBE).
- State agencies *cannot* establish statewide goals of 15% MBE and 5% WBE in contracts awarded for professional bond services without competitive bids.

# Restoring the Estuary

San Francisco **Estuary**

## 4th Biennial State of the Estuary Conference



The fourth biennial State of the Estuary Conference will be held in San Francisco at the Palace of Fine Arts on **March 17,**

**18, and 19, 1999.** The theme of the conference will be **The Rehabilitation of the Estuary and its Watersheds.**

The conference comes at a critical time in the development of long-term solutions for restoring the ecological health of the estuary. Conference presentations will establish a scientific foundation that will enable participants to better understand the significance of changes occurring in the estuary's watersheds and the effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts.

A number of national and local experts will be speaking at the conference, including Professor Matt Kondolf of UC-Berkeley, Professor Joy Zedler of the University of Wisconsin, State Senator Jim Costa, Sam Luoma of the United States Geological Survey, Josh Collins of the San Francisco Estuary Institute and Felicia Marcus of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Day One** will provide an overview of the "Changing Watershed." Speakers will discuss the various factors that are affecting the estuary, such as dams and diversion projects, floods, land use, and introduced species. A panel will discuss the cumulative effect of these factors on the decline and recovery of native species.

**Day Two** will continue with an examination of restoration issues.

Individual experts will report on attempts to recover categories of species—aquatic, invertebrates, plants, terrestrial species, birds on the Pacific Flyway—and



their habitats. The program will continue with lectures on estuary restoration: marsh, alluvial river, delta, and bay/wetlands. Speakers will discuss how to measure the success of a restoration project, establish indicators, and monitor dilemmas. A panel will discuss the pros and cons of restoration alternatives.

**Day Three** will focus on management issues, dilemmas over when and how much to manage Mother Nature, as well as institutional hurdles and opportunities presented by federal and state legislation. Four state legislators will present their perspectives on California's political agenda for the estuary: Assemblymember Michael Machado, Senator Jim Costa, Senator Steve Peace, and Senator Byron Sher.

Conference highlights include a reception on March 18 to celebrate the release of the *Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Report*, and a Wetlands Restoration Site Tour beginning at Crissy Field on March 19.

The conference is sponsored by the San Francisco Estuary Project, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary Project, SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, the San Francisco Estuary Institute and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Registration fees range between \$40 for one half-day attendance to \$175 for all three days; the fee is discounted for students with ID. The price of registration includes several publications, two lunches, and two poster session receptions.

*For more info, call the San Francisco Estuary Project at 510/622-2465.*

Are You Looking for the Latest News about Welfare? Visit the

## Welfare Information Network

at <http://www.welfareinfo.org>

A clearinghouse for information, policy analysis and technical assistance on welfare reform, the Welfare Information Network also provides links to over 300 sites. Updated at least once each week, the site offers information on expert contacts, technical assistance providers, bibliographies, and reports.

*The Welfare Information Network may be contacted at 202/628-5790 or by e-mail at [welinfo@welfareinfo.org](mailto:welinfo@welfareinfo.org).*

## AB 939 [cont. from page 1]

region to find a suitable site in the county for a construction and demolition "ecological park." Compatible businesses, such as those in the market for recycled construction materials, would locate in or near the business park. This would maximize the variety of materials that could be reused or recycled.

The Authority is also working with the construction industry to develop a countywide ordinance that would dramatically increase the volume of construction and demolition materials recycled.

The **Alameda County Waste Management Authority**, recognized in 1997 by

the California Resource Recovery Association as "*the most comprehensive waste reduction, recycling and public education program in California*," operates a number of other innovative programs, including a competitive grant program to encourage source reduction and market development in recycling.

Noting that businesses and institutions generate the majority of our waste, the Authority created **StopWa\$te**, a technical assistance program designed to help large- and medium-sized local businesses and institutions cut their costs by reducing their waste disposal, energy, water and wastewater treatment expenses. The



technical assistance audit is provided through a partnership between the Authority, Pacific Gas & Electric and SAIC (a large high-technology company that provides environmental and engineering services). The service is provided free, and is confidential when requested.

For more information, you may visit <http://www.stopwaste.org> (Alameda County), <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov> (CA Integrated Waste Management Board), <http://www.sfrecycle.org> (San Francisco), or <http://www.sjrecycles.org> (San Jose).

## Innovation is Key to Success for Bay Area Cities and Counties

- **San Francisco** is testing a program that would allow residents to recycle food waste (vegetable and fruit scraps) as part of the city's curbside recycling program. The city already has a rapidly expanding commercial program that collects food waste from grocery stores and restaurants.

- **Contra Costa County** plans to run a pilot program to recycle special utensils from fast food restaurants. Although they look like plastic, these biodegradable utensils are made out of corncobs which can be composted, explains Lorna Brown, from the county's solid waste management program. The only challenge is that the county's regional composting facility is in Richmond, quite a distance from cities in the central or eastern part of the county. For the one-week trial, the agency will truck the used utensils to the Richmond facility.

Brown acknowledges that the program won't make a significant dent in Contra Costa County's waste stream, but it "opens the doors."

"It gets businesses thinking about new ways to reduce their wastes," she said. The county says it has also received a lot of mileage from its *Reuse Directory*, a 37-page guide to businesses that buy, sell, trade or

accept donations of used products ranging from medical equipment to building materials. A new guide is due out in fall of 1999. (Call 925/335-1224 for more information.)

- The **City of Napa** provides free composting bins to residents (rather than at a discount like other cities). In exchange, residents must take a 90-minute class on worm, backyard, and grass/mulch recycling. The city provides three types of composting bins – or a \$50 gift certificate toward the cost of a worm bin, retrofitting a standard lawn mower or buying a new mulch mower.

The city is also considering consolidating recyclables into one large bucket, rather than having residents sort them into several separate bins. In addition to making recycling more convenient for residents, it would allow the city to move to a less expensive, mechanized pick-up system. Also, notes Miller, it would allow the city to expand the list of recyclable items more easily.

- The **City of Alameda** has had a co-mingled recycling system since late 1987. The large wheeled cart is larger than residents' garbage cans in many cases, says city waste management specialist Barbara Frierson. Since the city made the switch, the tonnage of recycling it has been collecting has risen significantly.

- Ellen Ryan, **San Jose's** integrated waste management division manager, says the city's yard trimmings program has been a huge success because the city has no limit on the amount of yard trimmings a household can recycle, and residents pile the trimmings in the street for collection. It's more convenient for residents this way, Ryan explains. And the yard trimmings tend to be clean from contamination. "Processors love it," says Ryan. "They can't get enough of it." The program also helped the city achieve a 43 percent diversion rate in 1996.

- **SonoMax** (the Sonoma Material Exchange program), a program of the **Sonoma County Waste Management Agency**, is patterned after the California Materials Exchange Program (CALMAX). The goal of SonoMax, which began in 1993, is to help residents, institutions and businesses find reuse and recycling opportunities for discards (plastic bags, buckets, construction debris, etc.) A quarterly newsletter advertises materials "available" and "wanted."

Listings are advertised on the SonoMax web site (<http://users.ap.net/~sonomax>) and are coordinated with CALMAX.

# ABAG Financial Services

## Financing Healthcare and Housing Facilities for Low-Income Bay Area Seniors

A unique new residential and medical care facility is going up in Alameda County.

The Lifelong Medical Center will provide complete health services to the elderly living in the neighborhood (on the Oakland/Berkeley border).

In addition, 40 affordable apartment units for very low-income residents will be built above the medical center.

ABAG's financing of the building required an extraordinary collaborative effort between **Alameda County, Berkeley, Oakland**, HUD (for funding of the apartments), and the State of California, which will guarantee \$2.97 million in tax-exempt securities offered through the ABAG Finance Authority for Nonprofit Corporations.



*The LifeLong Medical Center, a residential and medical care facility for the elderly in the community along the Berkeley-Oakland border.*



*Celebrating the ground breaking for the Lifelong Medical Center, from left: Berkeley City Councilmember Margaret Breland, LifeLong's COO Patricia Sussman and CEO Marty Lynch, Assemblywoman Dion Aroner, Berkeley Assistant City Manager Weldon Rucker, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, Dr. Henrik Blum (Capital Campaign Co-Chair), and Berkeley Mayor Shirley Dean.*

## CONCORD CONSIDERS NEW INSPECTION ORDINANCE FOR MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING



Concord is considering an ordinance mandating multi-family housing inspections. Seven Bay Area communities, including **Oakland, Richmond, East Palo Alto, Mountain View, San Jose, San Mateo, and San Pablo** have similar laws that mandate regular property maintenance inspections.

**The primary objective is to identify blighted and deteriorated housing and to ensure the rehabilitation or elimination of housing that is no longer safe to occupy.**

**Concord's Community Development Department recommended a city ordinance that would give staff the authority to enter buildings, note code violations and order corrective action without having to go to court.**

Most of the city's 331 multi-family apartments were built in the 1960s and early 1970s. Many of these buildings have become substandard due to a lack of maintenance, poor quality of the original construction, the building's age, illegal alterations or overcrowding.

According to Housing & Neighborhood Services Manager Janet Kennedy, the program would be funded initially by Community Development Block Grants and Redevelopment Housing Set-Aside funds.

Longer term funding could come from inspection fees, increased taxes on multi-family rental properties or the Department of Justice "weed & seed" program.

The proposal could go before the City Council as soon as February 1999; if approved, inspections could begin by July 1999.

## PITTSBURG OFFERS REHABILITATION LOANS TO UPGRADE HOMES



In an effort to upgrade run-down homes, the **City of Pittsburg** has made rehabilitation loans available to "target area" neighborhoods, including Black Diamond Park, Central Addition, the Carpino district, Bayside Knolls and Parkside.

In 1996, Pittsburg announced its Neighborhood Revitalization Program. This ambitious plan sought to bring together city housing rehabilitation workers, private real estate agents and money lenders, police and code enforcement officials, and neighborhood residents to increase home ownership and neighborhood pride.

Although some elements of the 1996 program have not been realized, others have been successful:

To date, nearly 70 home rehabilitation loans have been made to home owners in the Black Diamond neighborhood.

Throughout the city, another 44 loans are in the approval process, and an additional 112 are in the review stage.

Over \$1.5 million in loans has come from the Department of Housing & Urban Development and from Community Development Block Grants. Some of the money has gone to building investors who must provide matching funds.

In addition, crime has gone down due to increased police foot patrols, building code enforcement has helped restore deteriorating buildings, and the city's "good neighbor policy" has helped to ensure that city-owned parcels are kept clean and well maintained.

## EASTBAY WORKS OFFERS ONE-STOP CAREER CENTERS

The Private Industry Council of **Contra Costa** and **Alameda** Counties and the cities of **Oakland** and **Richmond** have developed one-stop career service centers throughout the Bay Area called EASTBAY Works.

The career service centers have offices located in **Alameda, Antioch, Berkeley, Brentwood, Concord, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Newark, Oakland, Pinole Valley, Pittsburg, Richmond, and San Pablo.**

The Centers provide a wealth of resources to help job seekers in their search.

In addition to the job postings, prospective employees may attend workshops on job searches, skills assessment, resume writing, interview techniques and use of phone, fax and photocopiers.

Job seekers can use the Internet and other databases, post their resume, search job fairs and listings. The center also provides free e-mail accounts for job applicants.

EASTBAY Works also assists employers by helping to pre-screen applicants to make sure their abilities match the job description and providing some job behavior training.

The EASTBAY Works website allows applicants to post their resumes and search job listings online and view calendars of events around the Bay; the site also connects to employment, education and training directories. The site also provides the address, directions and a map to each center.

*For more information, visit their website at [www.eastbayworks.org](http://www.eastbayworks.org).*



## Grants Available for Public Access Projects on the Bay

The Coastal Conservancy has \$500,000 in grant money available to local governments, park districts and non-profit land trusts for public access projects on the San Francisco Bay shoreline-- including segments of the Bay Trail. Individual grants will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

Eligible projects include: pre-acquisition analysis (appraisals, soils testing); acquisition of bayshore property for public access; design and planning costs for trails and support facilities such as staging areas or parking lots; construction costs for Bay Trail segments, spur trails or support facilities; and interpretive or directional signage.

*For more information or to request an application packet, call Joan Cardellino at the Coastal Conservancy at 510/286-4093. The deadline is March 15, 1999.*

## Conference on Implementation of Proposition 1A (School Bonds)

The University of California at Davis Extension Program is offering a one-day conference, "**Implementing Proposition 1A: What School Districts, Cities, Counties and Developers Need to Know**," on Thursday, January 14, 1999, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento. The cost is \$215, including course materials and lunch.

The conference will explore the major policy provisions of Proposition 1A and Senate Bill 50 related to school finance. [How can communities utilize the funding source? What costs are communities responsible for and how will they foot the bill? To what extent will developers finance schools? How is the "approval power" of cities and counties affected?]

*You may register online at <http://www.universityextension.ucdavis.edu>. For more information, call Pradeep (Kaddie) Kandola with at 530/757-8878.*

## Risk Management Conference

The 25th Anniversary **Public Area Risk Managers Association** (PARMA) conference will be held February 3-5, 1999, at the San Francisco Marriott Hotel.

Conference issues will include: Integrating FMLA, Workers' Comp and ADA; Anatomy of a Lawsuit; Police Pursuits and Police Liability; Workplace Ergonomics; Holistic Risk Assessment; Y2K Millenium Problems; Workers' Compensation Update for 1999; Managing Multiple Claims; Communicating Risk Management.

*For more information, call PARMA at 888/907-2762.*

## Bay Area Council's OUTLOOK 1999 Conference

The Outlook Conference is the Bay Area Council's annual briefing on the economy and business in the Bay Area. This year, the conference will be held on **Friday, January 15, 1999**, at the Fairmont Hotel in **San Jose**.

Confirmed speakers include: **Vance Coffman** (CEO of Lockheed Martin Corporation); **Larry Ellison** (CEO of Oracle Corporation); **Diana Farrell** (Principal with McKinsey and Company) and **Ted Hall** (chairman of McKinsey Global Institute); and **Robert Parry** (CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco).

Advance registration is required; tickets are \$300 each, lunch included. (College faculty and students, government officials, and paid staff of non-profit organizations and foundations are eligible for reduced rates of \$150 with lunch or \$100 without lunch.)

*For more information, contact The Bay Area Council at 415/981-6600.*

## The Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development

will meet in  
**February 1999**

to review the  
**First Working Draft**

of the

## REGIONAL COMPACT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

If you would like to participate  
or receive more information  
about the Alliance, please call  
**510/464-7978.**

# Bay Area Economy: Will the Bubble Burst?

*If you are concerned about the regional economy and would like to know whether bears or bulls are in our future, ABAG's short-term economic conference is your best bet.*

Each year ABAG's research department, along with guest experts, provides a status report on jobs, retail sales and economic growth for the next two years in the nine-county Bay Area. Don't miss this year's conference, "Will the Bubble Burst?" on Friday, January 29, 1999, at the MetroCenter in Oakland. Featured speakers will include:

- **Ted Gibson** - Chief Economist, California Department of Finance
- **Gerd-Ulf Krueger** - Deputy Chief Economist, California Association of Realtors
- **Paul Fassinger** - Research Director, Association of Bay Area Governments
- **Brian Kirking** - Senior Regional Planner, Association of Bay Area Governments

## ABAG Short-Term Economic Conference: Will the Bubble Burst?

### Friday, January 29, 1998 - 8:30am to Noon

### MetroCenter Auditorium, Oakland

*The cost is \$75 for ABAG members; \$95 for non-members. The registration deadline is Friday, January 22, 1999. For registration information, please call Sharon Kendrick at 510/464-7964 or e-mail SharonK@abag.ca.gov.*

## JANUARY

January 6-1 p.m.  
Regional Planning Committee  
MetroCenter Auditorium

January 7-11 a.m.  
Earthquake and Transportation  
Review Committee  
ABAG Large Conference Room

January 21-5 p.m.  
Finance and Personnel Committee  
ABAG Small Conference Room

January 21-5:30 p.m.  
Legislative Reception (for L&GO  
and Executive Board members)  
Cafe Metro, MetroCenter

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

January 22-10 a.m.  
Homebase Regional Steering Committee  
MetroCenter Auditorium

January 25-10 a.m.  
Bay Trail Steering Committee  
ABAG Small Conference Room

January 29-8:30 a.m.  
Short-Term Economic Conference  
MetroCenter Auditorium

## FEBRUARY

February 1-TENTATIVE  
Bay Area Alliance for  
Sustainable Development  
Call 510/464-7978 to confirm.

February 5-10 a.m.  
San Francisco Estuary Project  
Comprehensive Conservation and  
Management Plan (CCMP)  
MetroCenter Auditorium



ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS  
P.O. Box 2050 • Oakland, CA 94604-2050  
website: <http://www.abag.ca.gov> • email: [info@abag.ca.gov](mailto:info@abag.ca.gov)

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