



M E M O

Date: January 12, 2011

To: Executive Board

From: Ezra Rapport  
Executive Director

Subject: **Executive Director's Report**

Since my last report the State has a new Governor and Lt. Governor, both of whom are familiar to ABAG and familiar with the region. The State budget continues to be the number one critical issue facing all of us. Governor Brown has proposed several significant changes that will have impacts on local government, the magnitude of which we haven't seen since Proposition 13.

The budget is dependent on a voter approved five year extension of sales tax, income tax, and vehicle license fees. It will require a two thirds majority of the Legislature to put these extensions on the ballot. Other revenues will come from reducing the dependent tax credit, eliminating enterprise zones and redevelopment agencies, changing the tax rules for multi state businesses, using truck weight fees to service transportation bonds, and borrowing from special funds. The budget contains almost \$5 billion of cuts, divided among welfare (\$1.5b), Medi-Cal (\$1.7b), UC and CSU systems (\$.5b); services for the developmentally disabled (\$.75b); and state bureaucracy (\$.2b). The Governor's budget also proposes to shift various programs to local governments, including juvenile justice, adult non violent prisoners, and several mandates, although it is not clear yet how funding shifts will work. ABAG will carefully track developments with the budget and continue reporting potential impacts on our members.

Closer to home on the ABAG front, we continue to look for ways to address our need for a stable source of income for the Agency. I have met both with Senate Speaker Steinberg and Senator Mark DeSaulnier to outline some ideas for ways to provide funding for the region and local government to support the Sustainable Communities Strategy planning process. The Speaker agreed to make this a priority project that we will work on with his office and Sen. DeSaulnier during this session of the legislature.

Summarized below are some of the activities that we have been involved with over the past couple of months.

**Retrofit Bay Area**

On January 11th, ABAG held the kick-off meeting of the Retrofit Bay Area (Energy Upgrade California) Program Advisory Committee (PAC). The program provides \$10,750,000 of marketing and outreach and workforce development funds to the ABAG area, and is designed to increase the level of energy efficiency retrofits in residential homes through county-implemented projects. In addition to county staff the PAC



includes representatives from non-profit training organizations, community colleges, building trades, workforce investment boards, realtor organizations and PG&E. The PAC discussed the initial program Implementation Plan that will be sent to the California Energy Commission later this month.

### **Sustainable Communities Planning Process and RHNA**

During the Executive Board Meeting you will hear reports from key staff on the Interim Vision Scenario that is an important milestone for the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). Concurrent with the release of the Initial Vision Scenario is the creation of an SCS and Housing Methodology Committee. We are in the process of working with our staff, staff of the CMAs, and local planning staff on presentations that will be used by Planning staff to inform city councils about the SCS planning process and its goals. We hope to have as many City Councils as possible hear presentations regarding the SCS by the end of February.

### **Bay Area-wide Trash Capture Demonstration Project**

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership reports that its Bay Area-wide Trash Capture Demonstration Project, funded with federal stimulus money at the end of 2009, is moving into the construction phase. Sixty-six cities and counties are sharing \$4.25 million, allocated based on both population and municipalities' trash capture requirements in the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit.

ABAG has contracted with vendors of many types and sizes of trash capture devices, which will be selected by participating municipalities, ordered through SFEP, purchased by ABAG, and turned over to the cities and counties upon installation. The project is developing a website designed to facilitate information sharing among municipalities, so that they can use information from trash capture experience across the Bay Area to make informed choices about future equipment purchases. The site will map device locations and generate reports about performance of different types of devices in different land use areas, for instance.

### **Assistance Awards and Coming Events**

***FOCUS Station Area and Land Use Planning Program.*** Applications are now available for the fourth funding cycle of the FOCUS Station Area and Land Use Planning Program. The Planning Program is an initiative to finance planning efforts that will result in land use plans and policies that will substantially increase transit ridership around public transit hubs and bus and rail corridors in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

Grants of up to \$750,000 are available to local jurisdictions concentrating planning efforts on a half-mile radius around a transit station. Applicants are limited to 1) areas approved as planned or potential PDAs and 2) station areas in transit extension projects identified under MTC's Resolution 3434 that do not currently meet MTC's TOD policy for minimum housing thresholds. A local cash match of 20% of the total project cost is required. The Station Area & Land Use Planning Program application, guidelines and appendix can be found on the FOCUS website at <http://www.bayareavision.org/initiatives/planninggrants.html>

Applications are due March 1, 2011. Please contact Therese Trivedi, MTC Station Area & Land Use Planning program manager, [ttrivedi@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:ttrivedi@mtc.ca.gov), with any questions.

***FOCUS Technical Assistance Awards.*** The FOCUS program recently awarded technical assistance to the jurisdictions listed below that responded to the competitive second-cycle call for applications. Fourteen applications totaling \$805,500 were received. The objective of this flexible technical assistance program is to support discrete planning projects that will advance implementation of PDA-related plans in support of FOCUS goals. Customized in-kind technical assistance provided by FOCUS program on-call consultants is provided to local jurisdictions seeking to overcome specific policy or planning challenges to the adoption or successful implementation of PDA-related plans.

- El Cerrito, Parking policy and demand analysis/development feasibility analysis, \$60,000;
- VTA/San Jose, Parking policy & demand analysis (for San Jose PDAs), \$55,000;
- Oakland, Parking policy & demand analysis (Temescal neighborhood), \$60,000;
- Suisun City, Development & feasibility analysis, \$60,000;
- Cloverdale, Bike/pedestrian feasible design for freeway undercrossing/Caltrans coordination, \$30,000.
- Total funding, \$265,000

***Green Streets/Cleaner Stormwater Forum.*** On February 16, 2011, the Estuary Partnership is sponsoring a Green Streets/Cleaner Stormwater forum at El Cerrito City Hall. This forum is designed to bring project designers, engineers, planners, and other interested parties together to discuss projects that have gone in the ground to date around the Bay and elsewhere, and lessons learned from those projects. Other objectives for the forum are to hear from landscape architects and engineers about their concerns and perspectives related to green streets, the challenges of retrofitting urban areas, design innovations, and how to move these projects forward in the Bay Area.

#### **ABAG Financial Services**

Financings delivered by ABAG and its affiliated entities include:

- \$32,462,900 in Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco for construction of the Arc Light, a 94-Unit Mixed-Income apartment complex;
- \$64,020,000 in State of California Insured Revenue Bonds for Channing House, a retirement facility in Santa Clara County, to refund existing ABAG Finance Authority- issued Bonds, construct a new health center, and to remodel other facilities;
- A \$30,000,000 refinancing on behalf of the County of San Diego for the La Jolla Country Day School;
- \$58,385,000 in Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds to construct the Potrero Launch Apartments, a 196-unit mixed-income, mixed-use development in San Francisco;
- \$30,000,000 in Variable Rate Demand Revenue Refunding Bonds for the Francis Parker School in San Diego;

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- \$3,000,000 in Variable Rate Revenue Bonds on behalf of the City of Santa Cruz for the Ecology Action organization to help acquire and remodel program facilities;
- \$22,500,000 in Variable Rate Demand Revenue Bonds on behalf of Marin County for the Branson School to refinance existing ABAG Finance Authority debt;
- \$ 30,000,000 in Variable Rate Revenue Bonds for the Sharp HealthCare system in San Diego County to refund existing debt, make facilities improvements and to purchase major medical equipment;
- \$7,000,000 in refinancing for the Computer History Museum Refunding in Santa Clara County, and;
- \$3,900,000 in Variable Rate Revenue Bonds on behalf of the County of Contra Costa for acquisition, renovation, and equipping of the healthcare facilities of La Clinica de La Raza, Inc.