

M E M O

TO: Executive Board

FROM: Ezra Rapport *er*  
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

Since my last report the Governor and the legislature continues to work on a solution to the State's dire fiscal issues. The Governor has asked the legislature to give him a budget by March 10th so that there can be an election on June 7<sup>th</sup> at which the voters will be asked to extend the tax increases put in place in 2009 (sales tax, income tax, and vehicle license fee) for an additional five years. As these comments are being drafted the legislature plans to take a final vote on the budget by March 10<sup>th</sup> as requested by the Governor. However, calling a special election to extend the tax increases may require a two-thirds vote of the legislature. Thus far, the Republicans have not been willing to provide the two votes necessary in the Senate and the Assembly to achieve the two-thirds vote threshold. There has been discussion about a deal that would include some items desired by the Republicans in exchange for the needed votes. These subject areas include public employee retirement reform and more stringent expenditure caps. The Governor has indicated that if the tax increases are not extended, he will ask the legislature to re-address the fiscal crisis with an "all cuts" budget. The current budget proposal is based on approximately \$12 billion in cuts and \$12 billion in tax extensions.

Closer to home, the ABAG staff continues to work on a variety of programs and services. Chief among them is the Initial Vision Scenario for the Sustainable Communities Strategy, which was issued on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Other activities include the following:

**Feinstein Re-introduces San Francisco Estuary Restoration Act**

Senator Dianne Feinstein re-introduced the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act (S.97), which would authorize 10 years of funding for the Environmental Protection Agency to continue wetlands restoration projects and improve water quality in the San Francisco Bay and its watershed. The San Francisco Estuary Partnership is named in the bill as part of the committee that prioritizes projects for funding.

### **Restoration Authority**

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) will be conducting a second round of research designed to develop an overall strategy and timeline for potentially moving forward with a parcel tax ballot measure that might meet with voter approval at the two-thirds level. The study will be completed in summer 2011. The next Governing Board Meeting is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> at the ABAG office in Oakland. For more information, see <http://www.sfbayrestore.org>.

### **Trash Capture Demonstration Project Collects City Partners**

Sixty-six municipalities (cities, towns, and counties) from around the Bay have signaled their intent to participate in the Bay Area-wide Trash Capture Demonstration Project sponsored by SFEP. More than 30 have completed the contracting process with ABAG and are now ready to order trash capture devices from the vendor list SFEP developed through a RFP process in 2010.

SFEP has allocated more than \$4.7 million among the participating entities for purchase of devices. Part of the funding is going to subcontractor SFEI to build a website that municipalities will use to track the efficiency, practicality, and cost of maintaining the devices they acquire through the program.

### **Green Streets Workshop**

The Estuary Partnership held a Green Streets/Cleaner Stormwater workshop on February 16, 2011, at El Cerrito City Hall. Almost 100 people attended from local jurisdictions. Landscape architects and engineers discussed their perspectives on green streets, the challenges of retrofitting urban areas, design innovations, and how to move these projects forward in the Bay Area. SFEP will be sponsoring more of these forums over the year.

### **Energy Upgrade California**

ABAG's regional call center has been operational for approximately a month and a half. While the number of calls during the first month was very low, the volume picked up dramatically at the beginning of March with the kickoff of statewide and regional marketing efforts.

### **EV Streamlining.**

The ABAG nonprofit Balance Foundation signed an agreement with the Reformulated Gasoline (RFG) Settlement Fund (\$615,800) to develop and deploy building codes and public works guidelines to reduce the cost of installing electric vehicle connections in residences and publicly-accessible settings.

### **Census Workshop**

On March 1st, ABAG hosted a Census workshop to instruct planners and demographers on the usage of the Census Bureau's *New American FactFinder* website. The class of 16 students was lead by two Census Bureau staff members. We had representation from all nine counties.

Meeting Date: March 17, 2011

**ABAG Contracts between \$20,000 and \$50,000**

ABAG has entered into contracts with the following vendors and consultants/contractors for contract amounts between \$20,000 and \$50,000. This is for information only.

- On June 1, 2010, ABAG entered into contract with Bartel Associates in the amount of \$26,500 for actuarial consulting services.
- On June 1, 2010, ABAG entered into contract with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates in the amount of \$47,000 for the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority survey for possible tax measures.
- On June 1, 2010, ABAG entered into contract with Robert Consulting Group in the amount of \$33,000 for search for a new Executive Director.
- On June 21, 2010, ABAG entered into contract with Phaseit, Inc. in the amount of \$25,000 for the CalFed Science Project.
- On July 2, 2010, ABAG entered into contract with Sea Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$29,782 for the Estuary 2100 Project – Resilient Watersheds for a Changing Climate.
- On July 2, 2010, ABAG entered into contract with University of San Francisco in the amount of \$49,753 for the Estuary 2100 Project – Resilient Watersheds for a Changing Climate.
- On September 10, 2010, ABAG entered into contract with Phaseit, Inc. in the amount of \$20,000 for the Delta Science Program.

