

July 8, 2011

M E M O

TO: Executive Board

FROM: Ezra Rapport
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

Since my last report the legislature has delivered a budget to the Governor, which he has signed. It is a bare bones budget with severe cuts to education, social services, and local government, including the elimination of redevelopment agencies. While law suits have been filed regarding the legality of this elimination, there is sure to be much anxiety and frustration until the matter is resolved.

Regional Co-location Facility

You will receive a detailed memo from me transmitting the joint agency staff report concerning the regional agency co-location option. We will have a public meeting discussion of the issues related to a potential move and discuss the details of the proposed terms and conditions of financing our condominium share in closed session.

Planners, Elected Officials Invited to State of the Estuary Conference September 20-21, 2011

The Estuary Partnership is holding the 2011 State of the San Francisco Estuary conference at the Oakland Marriott City Center on September 20-21st, with an opening gala at the Aquarium by the Bay on the evening of September 19th. The State of the Estuary Conference provides a biennial assessment of the ecological health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. This conference will highlight results from the forthcoming State of the Estuary Report, to be published in September, which will describe the health of our estuary, Delta management and freshwater flows, climate change challenges, and other key issues. The conference is especially relevant for elected officials and agency staff as well as scientists, interested public, non-profits, and students. For updates on the conference, please visit the web site: www.sfestuary.org/soe2011.

Trash Capture Demonstration Project Prepares Next Phase: Disadvantaged Communities

The Estuary Partnership's Bay Area-Wide Trash Capture Demonstration Project now has fifty municipal partners under contract to receive approved trash capture devices for their

storm drain systems, free of charge through a \$5 million ARRA grant. Participating towns, cities, and counties order trash capture devices from 12 vendors supplying large (vortex separator-type) and small (curb inlet-type) devices.

The Estuary Partnership is submitting an application for \$3 million in new funds, to be matched 1:1 by SFEP and participating municipalities. Phase 2 of the project will install trash capture devices in disadvantaged communities (DACs) around the Estuary. The Clean Water State Revolving fund defines DACs as census block groups with median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide median. In many places these are some of the highest trash-generating areas.

Video “Estuary Report” Podcasts Available for Your Public Outreach Channels

SFEP has produced a series of video Estuary Reports for municipalities to distribute through their outreach avenues: see www.sfestuary.org/podcast. By posting or broadcasting the videos, you can connect the public with cutting-edge issues and Bay protection practices, such as keeping marinas clean and sewage-free; responding to Bay oil spills; reducing pesticide use around homes and buildings; and retrofitting “green stormwater” features into parking lots and sidewalks.

Post the videos on your home page or outreach page (see instructions at www.sfestuary.org/podcast/watch-link-embed.php).

Broadcast the videos through your public access cable channel.

Subscribe to the Estuary Report for automatic notification of new podcasts.

“Like” Estuary Partnership on Facebook

The Partnership has made its Facebook debut, bringing Bay-related news and videos to a new audience. Please check out the page by going to facebook.com and typing “San Francisco Estuary Partnership” in the search box. Click the “Like” box to get new information and join the conversation about Bay/Estuary issues.

Newly Funded Estuary Partnership Projects

Successful El Cerrito Rain Garden Project Grows into San Pablo Avenue “Stormwater Spine”

The Estuary Partnership will be awarded over \$3 million from U.S. EPA and the state Department of Water Resources to collaborate with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and seven cities in a ground-breaking effort to design and build a “stormwater spine” on San Pablo Avenue. In this partnership, first of its kind in the state, Caltrans has agreed to contribute \$1.8 million toward construction: the cities of San Pablo, Richmond, El Cerrito, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland are all participating. San Pablo Avenue is part of ABAG’s Corridors and Priority Development Areas (PDA) programs.

Each of the seven San Pablo Avenue stormwater retrofit facilities will treat stormwater pollutants, such as metals, PCBs, and PAHs, in runoff from approximately one acre of impervious surface. As part of the project, SFEP will develop and promote to the cities in the spine a model green streets ordinance, with the goal of having at least one city pass the ordinance. The first piece of the spine, completed in 2010 as part of an Estuary

Partnership/City of El Cerrito federal stimulus grant, has generated significant interest from the public and other cities interested in similar efforts.

New Water-Related Projects Funded through IRWMP

SFEP has several new projects funded by two Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) grants through Department of Water Resources, including about \$30,000 to help promote water-related LID and climate change planning, \$150,000 to administer a grant to disadvantaged communities and flood control agencies and fund a watershed coordinator, and approximately \$2,000,000 to coordinate a regional green infrastructure capacity-building project which will include partial funding for the San Pablo Avenue stormwater spine project (described above).

Got Ants? Outreach to Reduce Residential Pesticide Use

SFEP was awarded \$200,000 from the state Department of Pesticide Regulation to conduct a community-based social marketing campaign to reduce residential pesticide use. More than half of California pesticide use occurs in urban areas, most often to control ants – and ant control pesticides have serious impacts on surrounding waterways. The Got Ants? project use in-print, online, and in-person outreach in the Bay Area and several other communities throughout the state, with partners from municipal stormwater and wastewater agencies, academia, and the pest control industry.

State Legislation Codifying the Green Business Program

AB 913, authored by Assemblymember Mike Feuer, would establish the California Green Business Program. This legislation is intended to provide state recognition and support for the existing network of ABAG Green Business Programs. It is expected to motivate and assist other jurisdictions to launch programs consistent with the Program developed in this region. Green Business Programs have already been launched in the Monterey Bay Area, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica, and Thousand Oaks, and will soon be launched in Los Angeles.

AB 913 is structured so that the local programs continue to work directly with their own local businesses. However, businesses certified by their local programs would also earn the California Green Business designation.

The bill would add a section to the existing statute that describes the Cal EPA Department of Toxic Substances Control's hazardous wastes reduction and pollution prevention activities. The new section would explicitly recognize DTSC's activities that support the Green Business Program.

The bill made it through the Assembly with bi-partisan support and it now ready to be heard on the Senate floor, where it will be presented by Senator Loni Hancock. There is no opposition, so we are very hopeful the bill will make it to the Governor's desk and be signed.

Similar legislation made it through the Assembly and Senate seven years ago, but was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger

Ready, Set, Charge California! – A Guide to EV Ready Communities

ABAG staff continues to work with EV Communities Alliance and the Bay Area Climate Collaborative to develop a guide that will address the full spectrum of EV-related issues from the perspective of regional and local policy-makers, industry and on-the-ground practitioners in the fields of community planning, sustainability, utility operations, public works and fleet management. The Guide is expected to be ready for distribution to member jurisdiction in early Fall. This guide will provide detailed information on siting of EV stations, electric vehicle ordinances, etc. and will include sample ordinances and other valuable information for cities and counties who are considering becoming an EV-Ready Community.