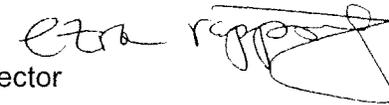


M E M O

Date: September 7, 2010  
To: Executive Board  
From: Ezra Rapport   
Executive Director  
Subject: **Executive Director's Report**

It is a great privilege to present my first report to you as Executive Director of ABAG. This report will highlight activity related to:

- Environmental stewardship projects, managed by San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) and the Bay Trail
- Grants and awards related to Climate Change goals in the fields of Energy Efficiency and Electric Vehicle Deployment
- Sustainable Communities Strategy
- Earthquake Preparedness and Recovery Grants managed by ABAG
- Legislation that ABAG has sponsored or plans to sponsor in the next Legislative session
- Upcoming events.

**Environmental Stewardship Projects**

This section is devoted to new grant activity and highlights completed projects since the last Executive Board Meeting.

SFEP/ABAG has received new contracts for:

- \$200,000 from USGS for support of the 2010 Bay-Delta Science Conference to be held in Sacramento in September.
- \$445,756 to continue permitting support at the North Coast Regional Water Board from CalTrans, District 3, for two years.
- \$68,000 for Statewide Stream and Wetland Policy support as a subcontractor to SFEI for 15 months
- \$92,657 from the State Water Resources Control Board to provide state-wide TMDL support for two years.

- \$3,613,704 from U.S. EPA, Region 9 (under the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund) to implement 10 projects for Bay area stormwater control and TMDL implementation.

#### **SFEP/ABAG Completed Projects**

- El Cerrito Green Streets Rain Garden Complete Construction. Construction of the stormwater treatment planters on San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito (at Eureka/San Pablo Avenue and Madison/San Pablo Avenue) is complete.
- Bay Area-Wide Trash Capture Demonstration Project Contracts with Vendors. SFEP/ABAG has contracted with 11 vendors of trash capture equipment offering more than 35 device models. Fund allocations have been announced to the cities, and contracts have been sent to 96 Bay Area cities and counties for their review and approval.
- Annual Mailout of Boater Sewage Pumpout Maps. Mailing of our Sewage Pumpout Guide maps to 110 marinas and boating supply shops in the Bay and Delta areas.
- California Invasive Species Council Drafts Strategic Plan. The ISCC is an inter-agency council that helps to coordinate and ensure complementary, cost-efficient, environmentally sound and effective state activities regarding invasive species.

#### **San Francisco Bay Trail**

The Bay Trail Project has announced the opening of a 2.4-mile trail section along Moffett Field between Mountain View and Sunnyvale. This opening will complete the missing link in a 26-mile continuous section of trail between East Palo Alto and San Jose. This new connection will provide bicycle commuters with a direct route to and from high-tech companies such as Google and Yahoo. It will also link two regional parks providing opportunities for strolling and spectacular shorebird viewing. The trail will be managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as part of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

The dedication will take place on the Sunnyvale side of the Moffett Bay Trail on September 20, 2010, at 10:30 AM. For more information, please see the Bay Trail website: [www.baytrail.org](http://www.baytrail.org)

#### **Climate Change Related Projects**

ABAG manages regional energy efficiency grants and early adoption of electric vehicles that help meet Climate Change goals. The following projects are illustrative of our efforts.

### **Energy Efficiency DOE Retrofit Ramp-up ("Better Buildings Program")**

This program, now known nationally as the Better Buildings Program, is underway with LA County as the lead contracting agency for the state. ABAG is under contract with LA County for \$8,395,887 to provide projects in four parts of the Bay Area: City of San Jose, City/County of San Francisco, County of Alameda (StopWaste.Org), County of Sonoma (Sonoma County RCPA). The Bay Area program will include the following elements: Marketing and Outreach Innovations (San Francisco and Alameda); On-Water-Bill Financing (Sonoma); Whole Neighborhood Approach (San Francisco, San Jose, Sonoma); Multifamily (San Francisco, Alameda). The program is still in the early stages, but committees have been meeting to coordinate similar program elements across the state.

### **Retrofit Bay Area (Energy Upgrade California)**

ABAG is finalizing a contract with the California Energy Commission (CEC). This program will provide \$10,750,000 to promote energy efficiency retrofits in residential homes in the Bay Area. The program will be marketed under the new statewide brand: "Energy Upgrade California." In addition to a regional website and call center managed by ABAG, each county will receive funding to implement programs specific to their area.

### **PG&E Green Communities**

ABAG anticipates two work authorizations under this program: (1) GHG Inventory Assistance for Local Governments. Project implementation has begun with a survey of local governments to assess the degree to which agencies have already completed GHG inventories and climate action plans. (2) Energy Use Benchmarking. ABAG is negotiating a work authorization to provide assistance for agencies in benchmarking the energy use in their facilities. We hope to begin training events this Fall.

### **Electric Vehicle Deployment**

ABAG staff is taking a collaborative role with other agencies and NGOs in developing a strategy to facilitate early adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), which will help meet Climate Change goals.

### **Electric Vehicle (EV) Grant Awards**

**EV Corridor Project Grant:** In January, 2010 ABAG and the EV Communities Alliance (a nonprofit serving to accelerate EV deployment in the region) on behalf of the Greater Bay Area EV Corridor Project – a multi-stakeholder alliance of more than 60 partners, including counties, cities, industry partners, and nonprofit and research institutions. The Corridor Project requested funds to install EV "charge points" and undertake related EV infrastructure initiatives. A funding award of \$504K was announced in June, 2010, and the project contract negotiation will begin shortly.

## **Electric Vehicle Deployment Pending Grants**

### **Proposal to MTC by the ABAG – Bay Area EV Corridor Project Team and BAAQMD:**

ABAG and EV Communities Alliance initiated a Letter of Inquiry to the Climate Initiatives grant program in June on behalf of the nine-county region and several independently represented cities. BAAQMD also submitted a separate, uncoordinated request for \$5M for EV chargers. Because there were many areas of overlap between the BAAQMD and ABAG/EV Corridor proposals, MTC requested that the agencies merge their requests into a single grant proposal. The agencies ultimately requested a grant of \$4.1M.

### **ABAG – EV Communities Alliance Application to the RFG Settlement Fund for the “California Fast Charge Project”:**

ABAG (via the Balance Foundation) and EV Communities Alliance collaborated on a \$1.8M funding request to install nine EV Fast Chargers (at an installed cost of more than \$100K each) on the San Francisco to Los Angeles I-5 Corridor and to promote EV Charger Permit Streamlining and EV-Friendly Building Codes and Public Works Guidelines in select jurisdictions in both the ABAG region and the greater Los Angeles region. If awarded, this grant will provide ABAG and EV Communities Alliance with the resources needed to develop and deploy model EV-ready green building ordinances and public works guidelines (focusing on San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and including San Francisco and San Jose). This work is needed to reduce the current 30-45 day installation period for residential EV chargers by better integrating the activities of contractors, auto dealers, customers, utility representatives, and building inspectors.

## **Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)**

There are two SCS agenda items on the Executive Board Agenda; one related to Employment and Demographic Forecasts, and a second on information related to Priority Development Areas.

### **County/Corridor Engagement meetings have been undertaken or are scheduled in all nine counties.**

Meetings in Alameda, Napa, Santa Clara, and Solano Counties have been held. The remaining meetings are in Contra Costa County on September 27<sup>th</sup>, Marin County on September 29<sup>th</sup> and San Francisco City and County on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Grant Applications**

### **HUD Grant: San Francisco Bay Area Regional Plan for Sustainable Development Grant Application**

MTC and ABAG partnered with local governments with Planned Priority Development Areas, and key stakeholders, including the Great Communities Collaborative, Breakthrough Communities, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, San Francisco Planning and

Urban Research Association, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, Bay Area Council, East Bay Economic Development Association, Urban Land Institute, Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative, Bay Area Open Space Council, and University of California-Berkeley.

Our proposal centers on advancing the implementation of FOCUS, the San Francisco Bay Area's Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD). This is aligned with the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), which will distribute housing growth in the region based upon the housing target and in relation to the GHG target as well as employment growth numbers.

Our proposal was submitted for a total of \$4.2 million to address the following tasks:

- Develop a Regional Affordable Housing Investment Strategy
- Regional Infrastructure Bank
- Analyze employment trends by sector and develop policies that support transit-served job locations
- Target Community Engagement in underserved/ resourced/ represented communities

HUD will approve awards this fall.

Strategic Growth Council Grant Proposal: Strategies for a Sustainable Bay Area

MTC and ABAG need to leverage partnerships with local governments and stakeholders to build support for the successful adoption of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). This proposal is submitted for a total amount of one million dollars to address the following tasks:

- Support targeted community engagement in disadvantaged communities
- Obtain visualization tools to engage a range of stakeholders in the development of SCS policies
- Identify performance indicators and a process for monitoring progress on SCS goals
- Identify CEQA benefits in SB 375
- Coordinate with adjoining MPOs and COGs on mega-regional planning issues
- Support local government implementation of SCS strategies

The Strategic Growth Council will make awards by November 10, 2010.

**Earthquakes and Hazards**

**Grant Awards**

ABAG will receive \$400,000 over three years funded by Caltrans, Division of Aeronautics, to study the long-term recovery of the regional airport system following an earthquake. This project will take a comprehensive look at the airport system and its role in the region's post-disaster recovery. The survivability analysis of the three international airports will be updated and a system of alternate airports capable of surviving a disaster

and providing commercial and cargo flights will be developed to compensate for potential loss of capacity at the three internal airports.

### **Grant Applications**

**California Earthquake Authority.** The California Earthquake Authority (CEA) is a major provider of residential earthquake insurance in the State of California. Through an annual set-aside of its investment income each year, the CEA has designated approximately \$20 million to provide financial incentives to homeowners throughout the State who retrofit their homes. ABAG, in partnership with PMC Consultants, the California Building Officials and the California Real Estate Inspection Association, has submitted a Statement of Qualifications to implement this state-wide incentive program, train retrofit contractors through an online training course, educate building department staff about the program requirements, perform periodic quality assurance checks of completed retrofits ensure the eligibility of the homes receiving incentives, administer the incentives, and educate homeowners about their retrofit options and the details of the program.

### **Legislation Update**

- **AB 153 (Ma).** This bill, which would have authorized the Bay Area and other regions in the State by a vote of the people to impose a fee up to \$4 on vehicle registrations to pay for regional land use planning activities was folded into **SB 1445 (DeSaulnier)**. The bill was re-referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee where it died. We're told that Assembly Leadership was concerned with any fee-based bills passed by the Legislature prior to the November ballot initiative Prop. 26.
- **SB 1205 (Corbett).** This bill establishes the Bay Area Disaster Recovery Planning Council to create a long-term regional recovery plan for an earthquake or other major disaster in collaboration with various stakeholders. It is currently on the desk of the Governor awaiting signature.

### **Federal Legislation**

- **H.R. 4715**, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program was marked up in the Senate and went to floor votes in the House in April. It is now part of a package called "The Great Waters Bills." If approved, it provides up to \$1.2 million each year for each National Estuary Program (NEP) starting in 2012.
- **H.R. 5061**, the San Francisco Bay Improvement Act of 2010 introduced by Representative Jackie Speier last spring, is also now part of the "Great Waters Bill" discussion. It has been marked up on the Senate side, with substantial differences between the House and Senate versions.

### **Coming Events**

- **Bay-Delta Science Conference 2010.** SFEP is organizing the 6th Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference (formerly the CALFED Science Conference) in Sacramento September 27-29. It is a forum to provide the public with new information on Bay-Delta issues. The program is posted online at [www.baydeltascienceconf.org](http://www.baydeltascienceconf.org).
- **ABAG/SFEP is sponsoring a boat tour** on the San Francisco Bay for ABAG officials on September 30th to in celebration of National Estuaries Day.
- **ABAG's Bay Trail staff will lead a series of nine bike rides** in nine weeks along various sections of the Bay Trail to highlight completed portions of the trail network. The rides are for Bay Trail Board Directors, public officials and agency partners. The excursions range in length from eight to twenty-seven miles and a schedule of the rides has been provided to you today. Please contact Bay Trail staff if you are interested in participating.

