



M E M O

Date: September 8, 2009
To: Executive Board
From: Henry L. Gardner 
Executive Director
Subject: **Executive Director's Report**

ABAG continued to have a busy and productive summer. Since our last Board meeting in July we issued Projections 2009 during a well attended workshop attended by about 200 local government and business leaders. You will hear more about Projections 2009 during the Executive Board meeting. The following report highlights some of our most recent activities.

SB 375 Progress Report

Interagency staff from JPC agencies continue to meet to better define the SB 375 work plan, decision milestones, and public participation plan. Staff expects that a public participation plan will need to be approved by the Executive Board no later than June 2010, about the time that CARB's draft targets for greenhouse gas reductions are released. There are many decision milestones along the way to adopting the RTP and SCS in 2013. A more detailed report on the schedule of milestone decisions and the content of the work plans leading to those decisions will be available at the next Executive Board meeting.

SB 406 Update

At the time of this writing, SB 406 has passed out of the Assembly appropriations and is headed to the Assembly floor. ABAG has been assisting with the shepherding of the bill through its committees. One of the key activities is to alert those advocates for SB 375 among government, environmental, and the business communities about the importance of SB 406 in financing the implementation of SB 375 planning. It will be very important for this larger community to communicate with the Governor's office regarding his signature on the SB 406 bill, should it pass out of the Legislature.

Governor's Tax Reform Proposal

The Governor, as do all other actors in Sacramento, recognize that future budget crises are inevitable unless there is reform of the State's revenue and expenditure system. Numerous groups are attempting to address this problem, including reform proposals to be introduced by initiative, and the possibility of calling for a Constitutional Convention. The Governor's tax reform committee, titled the Commission on the 21st Century Economy, has produced a report on tax structure options, highlighting findings on revenue volatility and tax burden distribution. The report looked at reforming the State's personal income tax and sales and use taxes. The Governor intends to call a special session of the Legislature to discuss options in September.



San Francisco Estuary Partnership

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership was able to restart its frozen Proposition 50 state grant, Taking Action for Clean Water, Bay Area TMDL Implementation, with ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) funds under a forgivable loan from the State Water Board's SRF program. The first project involved a creek restoration project being implemented by grant partner, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space in the Los Trancos Preserve of the San Francisquito Creek watershed. The ground breaking on Friday, August 28, 2009 followed a rapid and intense subcontracting effort by Ken Moy to insure compliance with the ARRA required construction start.

ABAG and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership have applied to the State Water Board for ARRA forgivable loan funding for two expanded use projects. The El Cerrito Green Streets pilot project retrofits a dense urban corridor with green stormwater infrastructure that detains and treats urban runoff to remove pollutants. The proposal partners with the City of El Cerrito in a shovel-ready green stormwater project—two rainwater gardens along San Pablo Avenue near El Cerrito City Hall—along with public outreach by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership. The project cost is \$392,000 and time to complete construction is six months. The SFEP/ABAG Trash Capture project will manage and implement a region-wide demonstration project to provide Bay Area cities with trash capture devices to retrofit existing storm drain infrastructure. An initial request of \$ 5 million is being considered for funding.

San Francisco Bay Trail

On August 29, the Bay Trail Project joined Caltrans, MTC, the cities of Martinez and Benicia, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and the East Bay Regional Park District to celebrate the opening of the new bicycle-pedestrian pathway on the Benicia-Martinez Bridge. The 2.2-mile path closes a gap in the Bay Trail and the Ridge Trail, and further extends the Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Trail, a 50-mile route around the Strait linking Bay and Ridge Trails in Contra Costa and Solano counties. We are continuing to work with Caltrans, Benicia and Martinez to improve bicycle-pedestrian access to the bridge on both sides.

Currently, the four toll bridges that allow bicycle-pedestrian access are the Golden Gate, Dumbarton, Zampa Memorial, and Benicia-Martinez. The bicycle-pedestrian path currently under construction as part of the East Span of the Bay Bridge will be complete in 2013. The San Mateo Bridge, the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and the West Span of the Bay Bridge do not currently support non-motorized access, but it is a primary goal of ABAG and MTC to complete the Bay Trail on all toll bridges as part of the region's non-motorized transportation system.

Water/Land Use Program

The Water/Land Use Program has collaborated with the FOCUS program to initiate several local government partnerships to secure funding for water pollution control projects through the Bay Area Economic Council Work Plan, and the State Clean Water Act Stimulus/Revolving Fund. The partnership projects exceed 60 mill. in value, and if funded and implemented will generate a range of local jobs while adding important environmental and livability features to the urban core.

The WLUP has also collaborated with the FOCUS program to prepare a series of maps that illustrate the relationship of growth and redevelopment in FOCUS areas to watersheds and waterways. The next phase will illustrate sea level rise relationships and water supply sources (imported/local/recycled) to help foster an understanding of climate change, adaptation and urban water need.

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

The Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority met on July 29, 2009. Among the items discussed were the formation of the Advisory Committee and a report entitled *San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Funding Options 2009* by Save The Bay.

The San Francisco Foundation awarded a grant of \$75,000 to the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority on August 24, 2009. The request prepared by Judy Kelly and Amy Hutzler (State Coastal Conservancy) will allocate funds to complete research over the next six to twelve months on the best funding mechanisms by engaging technical advice from consultants with expertise in the relevant statutes, municipal finance, and survey research. Issues to be researched include how to match priority restoration project needs by sub-region with potential funding mechanisms; to analyze property base, ownership and voter statistics in the nine-county region of the Authority's jurisdiction, and sub-regions; to identify preferred funding measure through survey research; to analyze timing and resources necessary to pass funding mechanisms; to identify state and federal matching fund opportunities to potential local funding streams; to identify legal and procedural requirements for preferred funding mechanisms and public finance opportunities and constraints; and to offer recommendations for implementation by the Authority's Governing Board.

ABAG Financial Services

Financings delivered by ABAG and its affiliated entities since my last report include:

- \$240 million in Tax-Exempt Revenue Bonds on behalf of San Diego County for various capital needs of the Sharp HealthCare System.

