

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Henry Gardner reminded members that the General Assembly will take place on April 20th in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of the 1906 Earthquake conference; encouraged members to participate in the next Transit Oriented Development tour of San Mateo on April 7th; noted that staff has been working with Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher to secure funding for ABAG to perform analysis of delta levee vulnerability; reported that staff met with State Senator Tom Torlaksen about proposed legislation to create a Delta Trail System similar to the Bay Trail, and with Senator Alan Lowenthal and Assemblymember Gene Mullin regarding AB 2307 – legislation to allocate funds for ABAG and SCAG to undertake the Regional Housing Needs Allocation process. Executive Director Gardner also announced that ABAG, in partnership with the Institute for Local Government, will sponsor ethics training for elected officials as required by AB 1234.

Resolution

Resolution No. 03-06 California Redevelopment Agency Pool. The Board authorized the issuance of up to \$11 million in insured revenue bonds on behalf of the jurisdictions listed in the resolution.

Bay Area Green Business Program Certified Public Agency Recognition

Ceil Scandone, Senior Planner, reported on the progress in certifying public agencies under the Green Business Program. The Board recognized the 23 public agencies that have been certified under the program. Vice President Jacobs Gibson presented each public agency with a certificate recognizing their achievement.

National and Regional Economic Outlook for 2006

George Zimmerman, Senior Economist with the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank, reported to the Board on the national and regional economic outlook for 2006. He provided an overview of the national, state and Bay Area economies, reviewed the national output and growth, displayed indicators of economic performance, and commented on the national forecasts and Federal Reserve considerations, including the economic risks associated with oil prices, deficits, housing, and job growth.

Regional "Blueprint" Focusing Our Vision

Janet McBride, Planning Director, reported on "Focusing Our Vision," formerly known as "Blueprint," that builds on the regional smart growth vision developed several years ago. She gave a status report on the progress being made in implementing Focusing Our Vision, including introductory meetings, outreach to city and county officials, staff and stakeholders, data collection, and plan analysis. A regional forum will be held in May for special interest stakeholders. A Regional Technical Advisory Committee will be formed, and a regional conference is planned for next October. A final report with recommendations is expected to be completed by Fall 2007.

Administrative Committee

President David Cortese reported that the Administrative Committee met at a retreat on February 23 and 24. The committee agreed to recommend to the Executive Board that ABAG develop an awards program recognizing jurisdictions and individuals excelling in implementation of Smart Growth principles advocated by ABAG; reviewed strategic planning progress, and assessed ABAG's regional planning function; and directed the Executive Director to continue working to ensure that member jurisdictions are kept informed and included in the regional structure of emergency planning.

Legislation & Governmental Organization Committee

Committee Chair, San Leandro Mayor Shelia Young, reported on committee activities, including a discussion of the infrastructure bond measure and endorsement of principles to be included future bond proposals and committee legislation recommendations. She informed members that State Senator Tom Torlaksen will be invited to speak about the Great California Delta Trail System; Ken Moy, Legal Counsel, has been asked to address the committee on eminent domain and redevelopment issues; and the committee will discuss the Federal Telecommunications Act at the next committee meeting.

Finance and Personnel Committee

Union City Mayor Mark Green, committee vice chair, reported that the committee met with Mr. Rick Brown, Results Group, who is the consultant for ABAG's Strategic Planning effort; approved the financial report; and approved Resolution 03-6 authorizing an \$11 million bond issuance.