

Association of Bay Area Governments

AT A GLANCE . . .

Executive Board Activities and Actions, September 20, 2007

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cortese reported that the Fall General Assembly will be held on Friday, October 26th at the Marriott City Center in Oakland, along with the Metropolitan Transportation Commissions' Transportation Summit. The theme is *Bay Area on the Move* and will feature discussions about Focus Priority Development and Conservation Areas, and MTC's Transportation 2035. Also, as ABAG's representative to MTC, President Cortese called attention to the opening of the new Benicia-Martinez Bridge that opened on August 25th.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Gardner reported on recent activities, including the following: public transit advocates have sued to prevent the administration from taking funds from a transportation account to help balance the budget, and, if the transfer is overturned by the courts, there will be major cuts in other programs and services; on August 28th, ABAG staff met with representatives of Chevron, the City of Richmond and Caltrans to advance closure of the Bay Trail gap at the Chevron refinery, and a staff site visit has been scheduled for October 4th to determine feasible routes; on September 20th, the Coastal Conservancy approved a \$3 million grant to the Bay Trail project which will be allocated to local jurisdictions for planning and construction of Bay Trail segments; the 8th Biennial State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference will take place on October 16th through 18th at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center on Lake Merritt; on August 24th, ABAG conducted its second Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Symposium concentrating on policies, politics, human resource and legal issues of OPEB; on August 3rd, the Deputy Director of the Federal Aviation Administration announced that MTC, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization, would receive \$585,000 on behalf of the Regional Airport Planning Committee (RAPC) of which between \$75,000 and \$85,000 will be passed through to ABAG to work with the general aviation airports in our region to inventory land and recommend critical parcels that need to have either their development rights acquired or limited; in preparation for the 2010 Census, a second round of workshops is now starting on Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA); ABAG staff has been working with the cities of Berkeley and Oakland to develop a model ordinance to encourage homeowners to seismically retrofit their homes and Executive Director Gardner participated in a press conference last month announcing the Oakland program; and ABAG held a successful golf tournament on July 27th at the MetroLinks Golf Course in Oakland which raised \$20,000 benefiting the Bay Trail and Tranter/Leong Management Internship.

Municipal Financing closed through ABAG FAN since the last report include: \$400 million in General Obligation Bonds purchased and sold on behalf of BART to fund earthquake safety improvements throughout the three-county system; \$135 million in tax-exempt revenue bonds to finance new facilities for the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center and \$165 million in tax-exempt revenue bonds to finance construction of The Charleston, a new senior living facility, both to be located on the new Campus for Jewish Life in the City of Palo Alto; \$20 million in variable rate tax-exempt financing issued on behalf of the County of Santa Clara for the Harker School in the City of San Jose for construction of educational facilities; on behalf of the County of El Dorado, \$12.75 million in tax-exempt revenue bonds to construct Eskaton Village Placerville, a 40-bed assisted living and 24-unit memory care center; on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, \$31 million in tax-exempt revenue bonds to fund seismic work and to refinance higher interest rate debt on the facilities of the Schools of Sacred Heart.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 13-07 Authorizing ABAG to Enter into Contract with California Coastal Conservancy for Funding and Managing a Variety of Individual Projects Furthering Development of San Francisco Bay Trail. Authorized the Executive Director or designee to enter into a contract with the California Coastal Conservancy for \$3,000,000 to develop individual grant projects that will further development of the San Francisco Bay Trail.

CALIFORNIA PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL: EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

Carol Misseldine, Co-Director of the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), presented CPSC's case for Extended Producer Responsibility. She described the Universal Waste Ban, CPSC's mission to decrease the burden on local government and increase accountability of manufacturers, cost of compliance by

Continued ➔

Association of Bay Area Governments
At A Glance
Continued

local jurisdictions, universal waste and local responsibility, producer responsibility, and steps local jurisdictions can take to support CPSC, including joining CPSC, lobbying for statewide legislation, and passing extended producer responsibility resolutions, ordinances, and plans and policies. [The presentation is available at www.abag.ca.gov/hazwaste/extendedproducerresponsibility.html. More information about CPSC is available at www.caproductstewardship.org.]

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN – ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS

Paul Fassinger, ABAG Research Director, and Doug Kimsey, Planning Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), provided an overview of the 2009 RTP and potential scenarios being considered as part of the plan. Mr. Kimsey reported on the 2009 Regional Transportation Plan update, describing the vision and financial constraints elements of the plan; the challenges faced; the economy, environment and equity issues; scenario performance assessments; goals and targets; and identification of performance categories. He also described the pricing sensitivity analysis, including doubling of the gas tax, parking charges, and congestion charging fees; combining the sensitivity analyses; outreach; and next steps leading to the draft plan. Mr. Fassinger reported on the land use sensitivity analysis, including land use and transportation linkages. He described the process of moving geographic areas using an allocation method based on Projections 2007 to achieve jobs/housing balance.

COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (CCMP) REVISION

Marcia Brockbank, Director of the San Francisco Estuary Project, reviewed the major revisions to the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. Executive Director Gardner acknowledged Ms. Brockbank's exceptionally fine leadership of the SFEP for over 14 years and informed members of her planned retirement at the end of the year. The Executive Board approved the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan revision.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF REVISED SMART GROWTH PRINCIPLES

Kenneth Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director, presented the updated Smart Growth Principles for review and adoption by the Board and provided an update on Priority Development and Priority Conservation Areas. The Executive Board adopted the Smart Growth Preamble and Principles, as amended, related to health and safety; economic activity and goods distribution; land for future urban development; conservation of aesthetic, historic, and cultural resources; schools and educational quality; and sustainability in green building. These amendments bring the preamble and policies closer to what the regional agencies are trying to accomplish through the FOCUS initiative. The amendments have been adopted by three other regional agencies.

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE QUORUM REQUIREMENTS

The Executive Board changed the quorum requirement for the Regional Planning Committee to 40 percent of the seats on the Committee.

LEGISLATION & GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Pete McHugh, Supervisor, County of Santa Clara, reported that the committee reviewed the status of bills previously considered, in particular those bills with amendments that were passed, enrolled and sent to the Governor. The committee recommended that letters be sent to the Governor requesting a veto on AB 162 (Wolk) and SB 2 (Cedillo); recommended support of a resolution of the League of California Cities which includes a proposed 300 foot separation for new residential care facilities; and reviewed SB 976 (Torlaksen). The Board approved the committee's recommendations. *For information on the L&GO Committee, contact Patricia Jones at (510) 464 7933 or PatJ@abag.ca.gov, or Kathleen Cha at (510) 464 7922 or KathleenC@abag.ca.gov.*

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Mark Green reported on Committee activities, including a review of the June and July financial reports, the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Diversity and Business Opportunity report, and a report on the GASB 45 symposium.