



**Submitted by:** Ceil Scandone, Senior Regional Planner

**Subject:** Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening

**Date:** March 23, 2009

## **Executive Summary**

Bay Area cities, counties and regional agencies are developing and implementing climate action plans. Drought conditions remind us that our water supply is under increasing pressure. Urban runoff pollutes our creeks, rivers and water bodies, and strains the capacity of flood control systems. Landfill capacity and the energy to transport discarded resources to landfills are limited. ***Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening*** provides guidance and tools public agencies can use to address these issues. Developed by Alameda County's StopWaste.Org, ***Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening*** is a whole systems approach to the design, construction, and maintenance of landscapes that contributes to the health of the San Francisco Bay watershed. This methodology extends green building principles to the area outside the building, as well as to greenbelts and parks. The Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening Coalition is an alliance of public agencies, utilities, non-profits, landscape professionals, and businesses established to promote the Bay-Friendly standards and provide a complete package of educational and outreach tools. StopWaste.Org and the Coalition will make a presentation about and seek support for ***Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening*** initiatives.

## **Recommended Action**

- Endorse the Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening 7 Principles Charter.
- Encourage ABAG staff to identify opportunities to incorporate Bay-Friendly criteria in relevant programs, such as the Green Business Program, the San Francisco Estuary Project , EcoWise Certified and FOCUS.
- Encourage StopWaste.Org and the Coalition to continue development of a verification program for the design and construction of new landscapes in the Bay Area.
- Direct staff to schedule a presentation to the Executive Board to seek its endorsement of these recommendations.

## **Next Steps**

- Schedule a presentation to the Executive Board.
- Incorporate Bay-Friendly criteria in relevant ABAG programs.

## **Attachments**

1. Declaration of Support of the 7 Principles of Bay-Friendly Landscaping
2. Signers of the Declaration of Support.
3. Cities in Alameda County that have adopted and are developing policies that require Bay-Friendly Rated Landscapes for new civic landscape projects.