Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter – Auditorium

101 8th Street, Oakland, California

April 7, 2010

Members Present:
Patricia Boyle, Bay Area League of Women Voters
Dave Cortese. Supervisor, County of Santa Clara
Pat Eklund, Councilmember, City of Novato
Dan Furtado. Councilmember, City of Campbell
Mark Green, Mayor, City of Union City/Chair of RPC/ABAG President
John Holtzclaw, Sierra Club
Jennifer Hosterman, Mayor, City of Pleasanton
Janet Kennedy, Councilmember, City of Martinez
Charlie Knox, Director of Public Works & Community Development, City of Benicia
Nate Miley, Supervisor, County of Alameda
Nancy Nadel, Councilmember, City of Oakland
Cheryl O'Connor, Acting CEO, Home Builders Association of Northern California
Julie Pierce, Vice Mayor, City of Clayton
Mark Ross, Councilmember, City of Martinez
Pixie Hayward Schickele, California Teachers Association
Carol Severin, EBRPD Board of Directors
Egon Terplan, Regional Planning Director, SPUR
Beth Walukas, Alameda County Congestion Management Agency

Members Absent:
Susan Adams, Supervisor, County of Marin
Shiloh Ballard, Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Andy Barnes, Policy Chair, Urban Land Institute
Susan Bonilla, Supervisor, Contra Costa County
Valerie Brown, Supervisor, County of Sonoma
Jose Cisneros. Treasurer, City and County of San Francisco
Diane Dillon, Supervisor, County of Napa
Juliet Ellis, Urban Habitat Program
Rose Jacobs Gibson. Supervisor, County of San Mateo/ABAG Immediate Past President
Scott Haggerty, Supervisor, County of Alameda
Kasie Hildenbrand, Councilmember, City of Dublin
Veronica Jacobi, Councilmember, City of Santa Rosa
Jeremy Madsen, Executive Director, Greenbelt Alliance
Andrew Michael. Bay Area Council
Harry Price, Mayor, City of Fairfield
A. Sepi Richardson, Councilmember, City of Brisbane
Jim Spering, Supervisor, Solano County

ABAG Staff Present:
Dayle Farina, ABAG Administrative Assistant
Danielle Hutchings, PE, ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Specialist

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Jaqueline Guzman, ABAG Regional Planner
Gillian Adams, ABAG Regional Planner
Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director

1. Call to Order/Introductions

- Chair Cortese called the meeting to order at 1:09 PM.
- Chair Cortese introduced himself as the new Chair and asked that all please attend meetings and asked those members present to please let other members know that their attendance is important in order to get business done.
- Chair Cortese introduced and welcomed new Committee Member Egon Terplan, Regional Planning Director of San Francisco Planning & Urban Research Association.

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes for February 3, 2010 Meeting.

The corrected minutes were distributed at the meeting. The attendance record was incorrect.

Approval of the minutes was moved by Committee Member Eklund and seconded by Committee Member Severin.

Minutes of February 2, 2010 were approved as corrected.

4. Oral Reports/Comments

A. Committee Members

1. Committee Member Green reported that he testified before the Senate Committee for SB 1205, Senator Ellen Corbett's measure which would give the Bay Area disaster recovery authority. The bill passed 3-1 at the Committee level.

2. Committee Member Pierce recently spoke at Leadership San Ramon on the topic "Follow the Money; The Regional Governments" using Ezra Rapport's PowerPoint presentation, which was presented at the last Executive Board meeting. Ms. Pierce was there to raise awareness of the FOCUS Project. The attendees of this meeting were unfamiliar with ABAG, MTC, BAAQMD and BCDC, etc. and the FOCUS Project. They want to know about opportunities to get the public involved.

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B. Staff

1. Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director mentioned the distributed flyer for the upcoming Joint Summit, the official kick-off of SB 375 in the Region. It will be held on April 22, 2010 at the Oakland Marriott. The event is geared toward elected officials and key stakeholders and key staff from local jurisdictions. The RPC Members are encouraged to attend.

2. Mr. Kirkey also brought attention to the FOCUS Forum events flyer. The next two events will be held on May 13 and June 10 at BCDC.

It was moved by Committee Member Ross and Seconded by Committee Member Holtzclaw that this report be accepted. The motion was passed.

5. INFORMATION – DRAFT Recovery Planning Powerpoint Presentation

Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director, introduced Danielle Hutchings, ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Specialist and explained the two presentations which were included in the meeting packet and asked for recommendations and suggestions on both presentations. Ms. Hutchings presented the first powerpoint "Long-Term Disaster Recovery Top 10 Action Items."

Ms. Hutchings updated the Committee on some of the other activities related to the Earthquake and Hazards Program.

- SB 1205 is continuing to move forward. Ms. Hutchings thanked the Members who provided letters of support for the Bill.
- A stakeholder meeting will be held to discuss SB 1205 regionally on April 20 9:00 – 11:30 am.
- ABAG has applied for a grant for a regional recovery plan, which is the plan that the proposed Planning Authority would develop. The Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) program recommended ABAG's proposal from the State and the State then recommends it from the Federal Government.

Committee Member Green referred to 8B, Financial Incentives; ABAG has been trying to get people to retrofit for energy conservation. Ought to look at earthquake retrofit as a parallel program.

Ms. Hutchings responded that Oakland is sponsoring a bill (AB 1725 or 1750) which would expand the incentives for energy retrofits to also include earthquake retrofits.

Committee Member Pierce wanted to see a little more information about documenting pre-existing conditions; is there a "how-to" on the ABAG website for this? A little more detail on what is required in that effort. Also, on page 6 relating to electronic records in offsite storage, need to be more specific to say that records should be stored outside the hazard zone.

Committee Member Ross heard a report just this morning which stated that in most commercial buildings the tenants are leasing the space. There seems to be a question, in many of these cases, as to who is responsible for restoring the building for occupancy. Mr. Ross suggested adding information recommending to tenants that they find out who is responsible for the restoration and repair of the building/property after a major disaster.

Committee Member Eklund recommended adding to the talking points that sample ordinances are available on the website.

Committee Member Terplan noticed that information is listed about percentages of jurisdictions to encourage jurisdictions to pass these ordinances. Has ABAG ever quantified each jurisdiction by population of the region?

Mr. Terplan also asked if it has been considered trying to get cities to coordinate around back-up job sites in case transit to their places of employment is inaccessible.

Ms. Hutchings responded that many larger businesses have Continuity of Operations Plans, many of which are to move to Texas, e.g. It would be more beneficial to the region for them to have a way to operate in the Bay Area.

Holtzclaw asked if we have been able to learn from Chile where their construction standards and recovery process?

Ms. Hutchings responded that they are looking for resources so that they are able to make a couple of trips to Chile study their recovery process.

Chair Cortese commented that Continuity of Operations plans do exist in some jurisdictions but they do not seem to be "better" than the private sector plans.

Committee Member Severin asked if we are going over the second PowerPoint. She would like to see the second presentation since it doesn't seem like it would take much longer and she has some questions which may be answered in that presentation.

Ms. Hutchings explained the major difference between the two presentations. She then proceeded to "skim" through the longer presentation.

Committee Member Severin wanted to see something on pages 20 and 25 about Open Space and Parks, which were used a lot in the wake of Loma Prieta.

Committee Member Knox commented that items 9 and 10 in the "east to do" list are a bit misleading. Masonry buildings are sometimes more expensive to retrofit than the building is worth. He recommended adding a suggestion such as some kind of financial incentive for retrofitting.

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Committee Member Green asked about road closures where there is a long (i.e. El Camino Real) road which only has segments closed. Is there anything specific in the plan that mentions road segments being closed?

Ms. Hutchings said that she thinks there is but she will verify the information.

Committee Member Pierce commented that she likes the detail of the second presentation. However, when thinking about the medical community, most people think about hospitals and fire departments, but not pharmacies or doctor offices. Ms. Pierce would also like to see a slide that mentions that when plans are just about finalized, they should be communicated to the overall community proactively.

Chair Cortese had Ms. Hutchings clarify that she would like any additional comments within the next week.

6. Action – Priority Development Area – Applications and Recommendations

Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director, made a brief presentation on staff's recommendations seeking Committee support for Priority Development Area (PDA) applications from the City of American Canyon and the City of Oakland.

Mr. Kirkey also reviewed the criteria for qualification of a PDA and stated that the Staff recommends that the RPC endorse the Staff's recommendation that the City of American Canyon's Highway 29 Priority Development Area Corridor be designated as a PDA once the required level transit service is in place.

Chair Cortese noted that Brett Cooper, Community Development Director for the City of American Canyon is present.

Committee Member Terplan asked for clarification on 20-minute headways. Is it just in the peak hours of morning and afternoon commute? Secondly, Mr. Terplan asked for more background around source of funding for the transit.

Elliot Hurwitz, Napa County CMA Director responded Elliot Hurwitz just implemented express service through the county Express bus route to BART from American Canyon and to ferry the building. Headways will be during weekday commute and school hours; between 7:00 and 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Committee Member Terplan commented that as we head toward SCS we're trying to get more people out of their cars for the long term.

Committee Member Eklund asked for the boundaries of the area being proposed and what the zoning is of the property.

Brett Cooper, Community Development Director for the City of American Canyon, presented a brief history and goal of American Canyon. Current Population of 16,000 – urban limit line between now and 2030. American Canyon has little land on which

to build. This land is currently zoned Community Commercial. PDA designation is the colored area on the map, which is 225 acres.

Committee Member Holtzclaw commented that he hopes that they are considering mix-use for this site and referred him to walkscore.com for more information on the subject.

It was moved by Committee Member Green and seconded by Committee Member Hosterman to support this proposal. Seeing no objections, the motion was passed to endorse the proposed PDA for the City of American Canyon Highway 29 Corridor. This will go before the Executive Board on May 20.

Gillian Adams, ABAG Regional Planner, made a brief presentation on staff's recommendations seeking Committee support for 6 potential Priority Development Areas in the City of Oakland.

Committee Member Green asked if the City of Oakland has provided ABAG with a timeline for when of these areas would be developed.

Ms. Adams responded negatively with the caveat that some work has already been done; Phase I of Fruitvale was completed a couple of years ago, as was Macarthur. However, among the six, she does not know with which they are planning to move forward.

Committee Member Walukas commented that the six areas listed have made some progress and some are already under construction.

Committee Member Nadel said that Macarthur is moving more quickly as is Coliseum because the City has more site control for these areas.

Committee Member Terplan asked for more detail on the primary and secondary neighborhood stabilization program shown on the maps; what does that mean in overall planning?

Ms. Adams responded that she doesn't have the answers as this is a City program and the maps were provided by the City.

Chair Cortese commented that even though the answers are not currently available, someone should get back to Mr. Terplan with the answers once they are available.

Mr. Terplan asked why the Rockridge is not being considered for a PDA. Mr. Terplan addressed Committee Member Nadel when commenting on West Oakland, which seems quite large and extends to the north's industrial districts. The PDA process currently encourages housing but this area is more mixed-use industrial.

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Ms. Nadel responded that Rockridge is already built out so it's not seen as high a priority as the areas which haven't been built out as much. The West Oakland area is focusing on jobs.

Mr. Kirkey noted that it's a key point that the PDA plans are based on local plans. The mixed-use areas vary. In West Oakland the approach is to retain the existing employment areas and jobs and accommodate housing in the right places. So, it is in keeping with the overall approach in the region.

Ms. Nadel added that as a Port city for a long time the heavy industry was too close to housing. The City is trying to keep the heavy industry and keep it separate from housing but also making it walkable.

It was moved by Committee Member Green and seconded by Committee Member Hosterman to endorse these 6 potential PDAs submitted by the City of Oakland. Seeing no objection, the motion passed and the endorsements will be passed to the Executive Board for consideration to adopt at their meeting on May 20.

7. INFORMATION – Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Engagement
Ken Kirkey, Planning Director, presented and sought Committee input on a draft approach for SB 375 and the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Committee Member Holtzclaw asked if the County Corridor meetings would be an ongoing series of "Charettes" or a one-time meeting.

Mr. Kirkey responded that they would be a series of meetings.

Committee Member Furtado asked if there will be an alternative option for planning housing, much like the alternative option which was available in the RHNA process?

Mr. Kirkey responded that they expect this to be part of the approach going forward.

Mr. Furtado then suggested that as part of the initial presentation at the meetings for SB375 and AB32, there would be a succinct, brief summary of the goals and what is expected of the local, regional leaders and then open it to discussion.

Committee Member Eklund commented that the local elected officials typically Cannot make daytime meetings and to engage them in this effort, the meetings need to be either in the evenings or on the weekends. Get the councils to engage in the county-wide effort. Also identify the cities already engaged in the greenhouse gasses effort.

Mr. Kirkey responded that they do envision having evening meetings. These were very successful in kicking off the FOCUS program.

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Chair Cortese remarked that engaging Senior Staff has a far more significant impact on the local jurisdiction than hearing a report from the ABAG or MTC representative, e.g.

Committee Member Hosterman agreed that the process has to reach out to local elected officials. It will be very critical for each jurisdiction to understand their own reduction strategies with what is done regionally.

Committee Member Kennedy asked if a survey about where each jurisdiction is with their plan would be helpful.

Mr. Kirkey responded that there is an assessment of Climate Action Plans in the area.

Committee Member Eklund raised the question: How will individual plans play into the regional plan?

Mr. Kirkey commented that the draft target relates only to greenhouse gasses related to autos and light trucks. As a region we need alternative scenarios that get us to the targets. We don't know what is coming from the ARB in terms of the regional target. The draft target will be presented at the next RPC.

Committee Member Eklund recommended having a sub-committee of RPC participate in more of the discussions more frequently than every 2 months.

ADJOURN:

Chair Green adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m. The next meeting is on June 2, 2010.

Submitted by:
Dayle Farina
Administrative Assistant

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