

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter – Auditorium

101 8th Street, Oakland, California

April 1, 2009

Members Present:

Susan Adams, Supervisor County of Marin
Andy Barnes, Policy Chair, Urban Land Institute
Patty Boyle, Bay Area League of Women Voters
Dave Cortese, Vice Mayor, City of San Jose, ABAG Immediate Past President
Pat Eklund, Mayor, City of Novato
Dan Furtado, Councilmember, City of Campbell
Rose Jacobs Gibson, Supervisor, County of San Mateo/ABAG President
Mark Green, Mayor, City of Union City/Chair of RPC/ABAG Vice President
Scott Haggerty, Supervisor, County of Alameda
Kasie Hildenbrand, Councilmember, City of Dublin
John Holtzclaw, Sierra Club
Jennifer Hosterman, Mayor, City of Pleasanton
Veronica Jacobi, Councilmember, City of Santa Rosa
Janet Kennedy, Councilmember, City of Martinez
Andrew Michael, Bay Area Council
Nancy Nadel, Councilmember, City of Oakland
Julie Pierce, Vice Mayor, City of Clayton
A. Sepi Richardson, Mayor, City of Brisbane
Mark Ross, Councilmember, City of Martinez
Pixie Hayward Schickele, California Teachers Association
Carol Severin, EBRPD Board of Directors
Jim Spering, Supervisor, Solano County
Beth Walukas, Alameda County Congestion Management Agency

Members Absent:

Valerie Brown, Supervisor, County of Sonoma
Jose Cisneros, Treasurer, City and County of San Francisco
Bill Dodd, Supervisor, Napa County
Juliet Ellis, Urban Habitat Program
Lesa McIntosh, Board Member, EBMUD
Nate Miley, Supervisor, County of Alameda
Mike Moore, BAPDA
Joseph Perkins, HBANC
Harry Price, Mayor, City of Fairfield
Dianne Spaulding, Nonprofit Housing of Northern California

ABAG Staff Present:

Kenneth Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director
Jeanne Perkins, ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Consultant
Dayle Farina, Administrative Assistant

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1. Call to Order/Introductions

- Chairperson Green called the meeting to order at 1:12 PM.

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes for February 4, 2008 Meeting.

A correction was raised by Committee Member Kennedy that Committee Member Hildenbrand was in attendance at the February meeting.

Approval of the minutes was moved by Committee Member Adams and Seconded by Committee Member Kennedy that the minutes be approved.

Minutes of February 4, 2008 were approved as corrected.

4. Oral Reports/Comments

A. Committee Members

B. Staff

1. Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director, provided an update regarding the initial review of staff recommendations for the process to develop SB375 policies including a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) in the Bay Area by the Executive Board and the Joint Policy Committee (JPC). Mr. Kirkey indicated that the Board and the JPC raised a number of questions including the role of MTC and ABAG and their respective policymaking bodies relative to the JPC in terms of policy development and review. He indicated that staff would be working jointly on a set of staff recommendations to be brought to the JPC and the Executive Board in May. He stated that the role of the RPC relative to SB375 policy review and development would also be under consideration and that more information would be brought to the RPC at upcoming meetings.

2. Mr. Kirkey stated that the 3rd call for Priority Development Area (PDA) nominations was open with the application deadline being June 12, 2009. He also described a series of upcoming FOCUS Forum events including those pertaining to Cities and Schools and the Air District's CARE Program as well as the upcoming Spring General Assembly in April related to SB375.

5. LONG TERM RECOVERY PLANNING – Forum on Schools – Information

Ken Kirkey, Planning Director provided an overview of the RPC's progress to date relative to preparation of the Committee as the Bay Area's Regional Recovery Task

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Force. Mr. Kirkey indicated that staff was assessing many of the questions that have been raised relative to the variety of issues discussed at RPC meetings beginning in 2008 and that staff is working with economic development and other regional stakeholder groups to develop a larger, more comprehensive recovery planning program for the Bay Area. Mr. Kirkey also stated that in summer 2009 ABAG staff will be available to present the findings of the Regional Recovery Planning Best Practices Report developed in 2008 to assist local jurisdictions with developing priorities for hazard mitigation and recovery planning.

Jeanne Perkins, ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Program Consultant introduced four panelists who presented and identified key recovery planning issues pertaining to public schools, school facilities, and colleges and universities in the Bay Area:

- Harold Brooks, CEO, American Red Cross – Bay Area
- Alicia Masri, Facilities and Operations, Alameda County Office of Education
- Dennis Bellet, Principal Structural Engineer, State Department of General Services, Division of the State Architect
- Sarah Nathe, Representative, Chancellor's Office, U.C. Berkeley

Mr. Brooks focused on the role of the American Red Cross in coordination with schools as emergency shelters.

RPC members were concerned that cities and counties are not in a position to effectively encourage schools to develop recovery plans and business continuity plans. Mr. Brooks described that the Red Cross, routinely works with schools and could serve as a logical interface between cities and schools relative to recovery planning coordination.

Mr. Brooks agreed to follow up on this idea with the members of his staff who interface with schools.

Ms. Masri's remarks focused on the requirements for school disaster plans and a management structure that complies with the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). She also spoke about how the state funds were not being utilized by many school districts because of a lack of coordination between the state and local districts. She indicated that schools districts with limited resources were typically unable to devote time to securing additional funding and managing recovery planning efforts, including submitting applications for retrofitting assistance..

Committee Member Pixie Hayward-Schickele described how the district in which she teaches had very limited disaster response capability for the immediate period following an earthquake let alone adequate recovery planning for the weeks and months following a disaster.

RPC member questions and discussions, which followed, focused largely on the need for emergency kits and procedures for students for the first few days following a disaster, rather than on school mitigation and long-term recovery planning issues. Several members emphasized that both issues were very important, and that among

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the issues and entities that had been discussed to date by the RPC, schools appeared to be among the least-disaster ready institutions in the region.

Mr. Bellet focused on the role of the State Architect in reviewing plans to build or retrofit schools. By state law, the State Architect, not the local city building department, functions in this role. He followed up on the previous discussion about the lack of applications for seismic retrofit by saying that the state actually had more potential structural problems with schools than funding to fix the problems.

In addition, RPC members discussed the issue of getting state inspectors to schools post-disaster so that these buildings could be re-occupied.

Mr. Bellet responded that his office plans to use the same Seismic Assessment Program (coordinated by California Emergency Management Agency) for volunteer structural engineers as every other building owner in the state plans to use.

After additional discussion, Mr. Bellet noted that it may take up to 4 months for all post-disaster inspections in the region to be completed. Members commented that a program for schools to make prior arrangements with engineers who have worked with the district to inspect buildings after a disaster is needed.

Ms. Nathe focused on the innovative disaster mitigation and seismic retrofit of buildings, continuity of operations, and recovery planning of U.C. Berkeley as a Disaster Resistant University.

Ms. Nathe was asked if U.C. Berkeley is sharing its creative web-based business resumption planning tool and “people locator” computer capacity with the City of Berkeley.

Ms. Nathe responded that the city has its own computer system, separate from the university’s, so sharing is not readily possible.

There was further discussion of the need for more coordination relative to recovery planning and disaster preparedness pertaining to schools and several members indicated that the provision of best practices relative to school-related issues should be a priority.

6. BAY-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING & GARDENING – ACTION

Gary Wolff, Executive Director and Teresa Eade, Senior Program Manager, StopWaste.Org and Michelle LeBeau of the Bay-Friendly Landscaping & Gardening Coalition presented information on and sought support from the RPC for Bay-Friendly landscaping principles and initiatives.

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The staff recommendation to adopt the principles and initiatives and forward the item to the Executive Board was moved by Committee Member Holtzclaw and seconded by Committee Member Nadel. The motioned passed unanimously.

ADJOURN:

Chair Green adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting is on June 3, 2009.

Submitted by:

Dayle Farina

Administrative Assistant

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