

## Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter – Auditorium

101 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland, California

June 2, 2010

### Members Present:

Shiloh Ballard, Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
Andy Barnes, Policy Chair, Urban Land Institute  
Patricia Boyle, Bay Area League of Women Voters  
Dave Cortese, Supervisor, County of Santa Clara/RPC Chair  
Pat Eklund, Councilmember, City of Novato  
Dan Furtado, Councilmember, City of Campbell  
Mark Green, Mayor, City of Union City/ABAG President  
Scott Haggerty, Supervisor, County of Alameda  
John Holtzclaw, Sierra Club  
Janet Kennedy, Councilmember, City of Martinez  
Charlie Knox, Director of Public Works & Community Development, City of Benicia  
Jeremy Madsen, Executive Director, Greenbelt Alliance  
Andrew Michael, Bay Area Council  
Julie Pierce, Vice Mayor, City of Clayton  
Harry Price, Mayor, City of Fairfield  
A. Sepi Richardson, Councilmember, City of Brisbane/RPC Vice Chair  
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, ABAG Vice President  
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  
Kasie Hildenbrand, Councilmember, City of Dublin  
Jennifer Hosterman, Mayor, City of Pleasanton  
Veronica Jacobi, Councilmember, City of Santa Rosa  
Nate Miley, Supervisor, County of Alameda  
Nancy Nadel, Councilmember, City of Oakland  
Cheryl O'Connor, Acting CEO, Home Builders Association of Northern California  
Mark Ross, Councilmember, City of Martinez  
Jim Sperring, Supervisor, Solano County

### ABAG Staff Present:

Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director  
Laura Thompson, ABAG Project Manager, San Francisco Bay Trail

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Jennifer Krebs, ABAG Principal Planner, San Francisco Estuary Partnership  
Dayle Farina, ABAG Administrative Assistant

### 1. Call to Order/Introductions

- Chair Cortese called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.
- Chair Cortese introduced and welcomed new Committee Member Jeremy Madsen, Executive Director of Greenbelt Alliance.

### 2. Public Comment

### 3. Approval of Minutes for April 7, 2010 Meeting.

Approval of the minutes was moved by Committee Member Holtzclaw and seconded by Committee Member Price.

Minutes of April 7, 2010 were approved as corrected.

### 4. Oral Reports/Comments

#### A. Committee Members

#### B. Staff

1. Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director mentioned the flyer outlining the upcoming FOCUS Forum schedule, and the “One Bay Area” flyer, which was put together by MTC and ABAG relative to SB 375.

### 5. INFORMATION: 300 Miles and Counting; The San Francisco Bay Trail Marches Toward Completion

Laura Thompson, San Francisco Bay Trail Coordinator, provided an update on the significant progress and some of the challenges of the Bay Trail project as implementation passes the halfway point.

Mr. Haggerty asked if the Air District had provided funds for the project.

Ms. Thompson responded that the Air District had provided funds indirectly through their grants program.

Mr. Haggerty stated that he believed that the Air District could be an additional source of funding.

Committee Member Eklund asked if the EPA or the Regional Board has been approached for funding.

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Committee Member Haggerty suggested exploring the possibility of using developers' mitigation fees for the Bay Trail.

Ms. Thompson responded that she had seen some resources from development mitigation measures help build a trail in Richmond but had not seen them used more globally. Ms. Thompson commented that she likes the idea of approaching them about funding different parts of the Bay Trail.

Committee Member Green suggested that we need to get the legislators in Washington behind the idea of allocating some funds specifically for the goal of completing the Bay Trail.

Committee Member Holtzclaw commented that the American Power Act has approximately 6 billion dollars set aside for transportation which includes trails and that there needs to be some effort to keep these dollars on trails instead of just widening freeways and such.

Chair Cortese asked Mr. Kirkey to please take suggestions as referrals and keep the Committee informed on the progress of these referrals and other activity related to the Bay Trail project.

### **6. Information: SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) – Update and Next Steps**

Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director, presented a summary on efforts to date and upcoming tasks on the SB 375-related Sustainable Communities Strategy, including the public participation plan and the setting of a regional greenhouse gas target.

Committee Member Haggerty indicated that he heard the CEQA Guidelines will have a very negative impact on transit-oriented development (TOD). He asked if ABAG has been following the process as the guidelines have been developed and if ABAG agrees that the guidelines will impede TOD and PDA development.

Mr. Kirkey responded that ABAG has been following it closely and working with the Air District staff by participating in workshops and coordinating comments by Planning Directors in the Region to the Air District.

Mr. Haggerty asked if, specifically, the CEQA Guidelines will affect TOD Housing.

Mr. Kirkey responded that his perception is that the CEQA Guidelines need to be complimented by tools for jurisdictions to implement them, including funding for risk reduction strategies relative to particulate matter and qualified climate action plans relative to greenhouse gas guidelines.. He indicated that jurisdictions do not have the resources to do that kind of planning upfront and without these strategies and plans TOD and PDA development could be impeded. He also mentioned that, since the SCS has a CEQA component, this is an opportunity to move forward relative to the

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CEQA guidelines that the Air District adopts to make sure that CEQA requirements are addressed as part of the SCS to ensure that various regional agency policies are concurrent and that the SCS provides meaningful CEQA benefits for projects that comport with the SCS.

Committee Member Michael asked if the RPC could take action on the following: He asked whether the RPC might “instruct” MTC and others to include the foreseeable increase in Electric Vehicles in their assessment of Greenhouse Gas emissions and how we meet those targets.

Mr. Kirkey responded the he doesn't think that, by not including it, the Commission is saying that it isn't an important issue.

Mr. Michael stated that the Bay Area Council has been involved in Smart Growth for many years and that input from all sectors is important. He said that the Bay Area Council has a number of ideas relative to how to engage the public in SCS development. He further stated that the Council is looking at ways to fund that effort and would appreciate input from the RPC. Please contact him at 415-946-8707 or [amichael@bayareacouncil.org](mailto:amichael@bayareacouncil.org).

Committee Member Furtado mentioned that ABAG sponsored an event in Palo Alto where they invited school officials to discuss future school sites. Bringing in School Board Members to this planning process makes them aware of the happenings.

Committee Member Kennedy asked about how RHNA numbers were associated with SCS.

Mr. Kirkey re-stated that the SCS encompasses a housing allocation for 25 years and it starts with a large regional number which is divided into income segments (very low, low, moderate, and above moderate). There is no legal requirement for anything to be built but RHNA requires that planning and zoning relative to the adopted RHNA methodology be adopted in each community. Both the SCS and the RHNA need to be consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan.

Ms. Kennedy commented that relative to her community's last Housing Element, the State did not take into consideration the current economic state. Ms. Kennedy asked if the economy would play a part in this process going forward with the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Mr. Kirkey explained that ABAG and MTC have been meeting with the other regions around some key issues pertaining to SB 375, including the housing issue. He further stated that there is an effort to make sure that economic conditions including job growth are recognized relative to the housing target that will inform the SCS housing allocation.

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Committee Member Eklund asked why schools can't provide some affordable housing on school grounds for the teachers, childcare availability, etc. She stated that she wants to make sure we're looking at the larger, 'quality of life' issue in the SCS.

Ms. Eklund also stated that housing allocation should be determined by how the area is zoned relative to the type of housing and affordability. (i.e., if heavy on retail zoning then housing allocation should be comparable). She also stated that it is unclear if the accomplishments noted in the presentation are measurable.

Mr. Kirkey added that the one of the ways in which the SCS Housing Allocation will be different is relative to the local jurisdictional process; He stated that there will be a regional number and a base-case scenario, which will look at Counties and Corridors and how the different areas can perform, and providing an opportunity for trading the allocation across some communities based upon a relationship to per capita vehicle miles traveled in different areas.

Committee Member Madsen commented that he thinks it is great the community outreach is underway to do this SCS in a collaborative way with the cities, but feels the larger public needs to be engaged. Mr. Madsen also mentioned that if the process is a numbers game that it won't have the broader buy-in. We need to drive the economic competitiveness. Mr. Madsen added that the SCS should be presented within the region as a tool to increase quality of life for the next generation.

Committee Member Ballard commented that the marketing piece of this process is equally important as the planning piece. Ms. Ballard also commented that it is very important that everyone not focus on today's economic time when envisioning the future.

Committee Member Holtzclaw added that education the public through a series of charettes would provide an opportunity for the public to decide what their community needs. Mr. Holtzclaw would like to see walkable, bikable areas measured and VMT per capita.

Committee Member Terplan added that one way to deal with framing the SCS relates to regional competitiveness and the need to continue to attract talented people, retain them, etc. He emphasized the need to incorporate employment and employment centers in the SCS.

Chair Cortese asked how much has the Building Industry Association been engaged in the discussions around schools.

Mr. Kirkey responded that he did not know what the BIA's involvement has been around school quality. However, he knows that home builders are aware of school quality as a driver from a marketing perspective.

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Committee Member Pierce asked if there are any resources that cities and counties can use to purchase some of the prime opportunity spots for schools.

Mr. Kirkey stated that ABAG staff will follow-up with the Center for Cities and Schools to see what is available to cities.

Committee Member Hayward Schikele commented that the last thing the school districts have is the money for long range planning for purchasing land.

### **7. INFORMATION – Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Municipal Regional Promote Stormwater Permit and San Francisco Estuary Partnership’s Projects to Green Infrastructure Around the Region.**

Jennifer Krebs, ABAG Principal Planner for the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, briefed the RPC on municipal regional storm water permit requirements passed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board last fall and successful efforts by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership to secure funding for local governments to undertake Green Infrastructure projects around the region.

Committee Member Eklund asked if there are techniques, which are used to help reduce run-off and which are most effective in certain areas, on the SFEP website?

Ms. Krebs responded that there are references to many best practices in the pamphlets and materials provided on the sign-in table. Ms. Krebs added that there are not yet enough on the ground projects to determine which techniques are most effective in certain parts of the Bay Area, however, staff hopes to have that level of information within the next few years.

Committee Member Eklund asked if more information about the Air District CEQA Guidelines could be available at the August meeting of the RPC. Mr. Kirkey indicated that staff would work with the Air District to bring the issue before the RPC.

### **ADJOURN:**

Chair Green adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m. The next meeting is on August 4, 2010.

Submitted by:

Dayle Farina

Administrative Assistant