

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

STUART COHEN

Since December 1997 Stuart has chaired the Bay Area Transportation and Land Use Coalition, a collaboration of over 80 environmental, community and social justice organizations working for a more sustainable and socially just region. Stuart led the successful effort that added \$375 million for the maintenance of regional transit systems in 1998. Stuart has authored seven reports on transportation and regional planning. He received a Master's Degree in Public Policy (MPP) from U.C. Berkeley.

MARK DESAULNIER

Mark DeSaulnier has served as a Contra Costa Supervisor since in March 1994. DeSaulnier has played a significant role in the areas of Smart Growth and Regionalism for many years. In 1997, he established the Interregional Partnership, a working committee of leaders from Contra Costa, Alameda, Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Santa Clara counties. He started the Regional Agencies Smart Growth Initiative, Contra Costa: Shaping its Future Process and the Bay Area Regional Coordinating Council. He is co-author of the Contra Costa Smart Growth Action Plan.

VICTORIA EISEN

Victoria has worked as an urban planner for twenty years, in public transit planning, bicycle planning and, most recently, regional land use planning. She has Masters Degrees in Transportation Engineering and City Planning from UC Berkeley. Victoria has been with the Association of Bay Area Governments since 1997, where she currently manages the Regional Agencies Smart Growth Strategy.

JULIET ELLIS

Juliet Ellis, is Executive Director of the Urban Habitat Program, a regional environmental justice intermediary. Juliet has a Masters of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in environmental and urban studies from San Francisco State University. Prior to becoming Director for UHP, Juliet was the Associate Program Officer for Neighborhood and Community Development at The San Francisco Foundation. She was responsible for all aspects of grantmaking in the areas of workforce development, housing, homelessness, economic development, community development, and neighborhood planning. Juliet has served on numerous regional and local boards and committees, including the Oakland Homeless and Low-Income Taskforce, the San Francisco Asset Building Initiative, the Alameda Continuum of Care Council, and the Alameda County Public Health Disparities Taskforce. She currently serves on the Board and Steering Committee of the Bay Area Transportation and Land Use Coalition, the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development, the Capital Community Investment Initiative, and Girls After School Academy.

BRUCE KERN

Bruce Kern is the Executive Director of the Economic Development Alliance for Business, an organization comprised of local municipal, and regional government organizations and over 200 private corporations. Mr. Kern leads many associations. Specifically, he is the chairman of the Government Relations Committee of the California Economic Development Association and is the founder of the statewide Coalition of Small Business Centers.

STEVE KINSEY

Supervisor Steve Kinsey has been active in Marin County growth issues for over a decade, focussing particularly on water. Steve is a Vice President of the Marin County Board of Supervisors and Vice-Chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, one of the Smart Growth Strategy's key sponsoring agencies. Steve's gift as a facilitator has been instrumental to the success of the Smart Growth Strategy Steering Committee, where he serves as Chair.

GWEN REGALIA

Gwen Regalia is the President of the Association of Bay Area Governments, the council of governments representing 100 cities and towns and nine counties of the Bay Area region, and Mayor Pro Tem of Walnut Creek. She brings in-depth local and regional governance perspective, coalition building and public policy expertise to regional planning and has played a prominent role in housing development and land use initiatives, city and regional growth plans, expansion of transportation alternatives, and analysis of transportation needs and allocation of funds. She has served on the Walnut Creek City Council since 1987 and three times as its Mayor. Gwen Regalia is a member of the Contra Costa County "Shaping Our Future" policy committee and serves on the Steering Committee of the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development. She is a member of the Bay Area Economic Forum and past chair of TRANSPAC.

TOM TORLAKSON

Senator Torlakson has been a leader in transportation, public education and Bay Delta protection throughout his 25-year career. He authored legislation that supports the Inter-Regional Partnership, a five-county effort to balance jobs and housing in the eastern Bay Area and the Central Valley. He has served in all levels of local and state government, rising from Mayor of Antioch to the Board of Supervisors to the Assembly. Senator Torlakson was elected to the Senate in 2000.

MANUEL VALERIO

Manuel Valerio, a native of Sunnyvale, was elected to the Sunnyvale City Council in 1995. He served as Mayor of the City in 1999. He has served as the City's representative on the Valley Transportation Authority Board of Directors since 1996, and was the Chair of the VTA in 2001. He is also a Board Member, representing VTA and Santa Clara County, on the Peninsula Corridor (Caltrain) Joint Powers Board since 2000.

SUNNE WRIGHT McPEAK

Sunne Wright McPeak has been President and CEO of the Bay Area Council since November 1996. During her tenure at the Bay Area Council, Ms. McPeak has established and leads major regional initiatives that address policy challenges involving transportation, housing, sustainable economic development, water policy, telecommunications infrastructure, and education and workforce preparation. All of her work for the employer-sponsored, CEO-led public policy organization has been directed at strengthening the nine county region's economy and improving the quality of life of its residents. Prior to her current position, Ms. McPeak served for three years as President and CEO of the Bay Area Economic Forum, a partnership formed in 1988 by the Bay Area Council and the Association of Bay Area Governments to facilitate public-private collaboration for promoting the regional economy. Before the Bay Area Economic Forum, Ms. McPeak was a member of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors for more than 15 years.