



Fall 2012

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Rio, photo courtesy of Scott Ruhland

An Urbanist View of Brazil

By Alice Daly, AICP and Scott Ruhland

In the country of Brazil, planning is largely conducted in departments of “Urbanismo” by men and women who are architects by training and study “arquitetura e urbanismo” at University. Having absorbed planning theory, history and practice as a component of their architecture coursework, Brazilian urbanistas go on to navigate a culturally specific confluence of design, infrastructure, social, demographic, environmental and economic concerns as they bridge the disciplines of planning and architecture. They may call themselves planners to American guests, but you may call them urbanistas.

A group of us from the APA California Northern's International Program spent a year planning our adventure. The result: an all-too-brief but fascinating look at some of Brazil's most compelling cities through planners' eyes. We were fortunate to have the advice and in-country contacts of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Professor of City and Regional Planning Vicente del Rio - who is from Rio - while setting up our itinerary. As we made our way across a portion of the largest South American country, we gained insight into Brazil's modernist aesthetic, the variety of public and private spaces in urban areas, and the tensions and possibilities that lie between the “real city” and the “designed city”, to use Professor del Rio's terms.

The Cities

Brazil is larger than the continental United States, and 80% of its citizens live in urban areas. Our tour brought us to the sprawling cities of Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia and Curitiba, and through the cobblestoned colonial towns of Paraty and Ouro Preto.

Sao Paulo is the richest and most populous city in Brazil, generating 12% of the nation's GNP, with 20 million people in the greater metro area. As seen from the air, high-rise towers soar for miles in every direction, a sight both breathtaking and nightmarish. Traffic is legendary, and Sao Paulo has the world's largest private helicopter fleet; even the mayor has a rooftop commute. But it could be worse: most Brazilian cars are flex fuel, running on either ethanol or gasoline. Brazil cultivates large amounts of sugar cane specifically for ethanol conversion. With

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APA California Election Nominations Now Open!

Don't forget to vote for your incoming APA California leadership! The elections will close November 15th so please get your vote in before the deadline for your next Vice President for Conferences, Vice President for Policy and Legislation, Vice President for Professional Development, and Planning Commissioner Representative. You should have received your ballot via email with all the instructions and your unique Ballot ID. If you did not receive your ballot email or experienced issues with accessing your ballot, please contact Laura Murphy at nhe2011@live.com to request your Ballot ID and link.



We need your vote!

An Urbanist View of Brazil

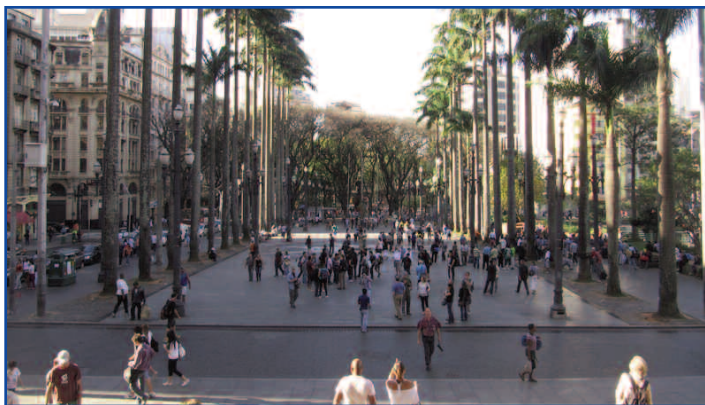
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flex fuel vehicles, good offshore oil supplies and an emphasis on sustainable energy production and consumption, Brazil has achieved energy independence.

Consider “verticalization”: The preferred dwellings of Sao Paulo urbanites are residential high-rises within gated surrounds of private space, car-centric domiciles that are visually and socially remote from the pedestrian streetscape. Locked gates and security cameras are common.

And yet our group enjoyed Sao Paulo far more than we had anticipated. The city’s sheer size and density creates street-level energy not unlike New York City. We witnessed government employee demonstrations, crafts markets, and neighborhood eateries where locals lingered over tables and chairs sprawled onto the sidewalks. There are diverse ethnic enclaves, including the largest Japanese population outside of Japan.

Municipal Development Director Domingo Pires at the Sao Paulo Urbanismo office gave us an overview of city planning operations, including the process by which developers can buy exceptions to height limits through purchase of securities certificates (CEPACS) which are then sold on the stock exchange for conversion to air rights. The CEPACS are then used to fund infrastructure improvements prior to development. The master plan is called "Sao Paulo 2040: The City We All Want". Long-range goals include



Sao Paulo, photo courtesy of Hing Wong, AICP

river-edge greenways, democratically-situated park facilities, 30-minute-or-less commutes for all, and regional commercial centers to divert some of the traffic away from the city center and bring jobs to the people. Initiatives for favela slums involve programs to enhance the urban poor's social as well as geographic connections with the rest of the city. We met with a local planner who is involved with Nova Luz, a massive redevelopment project near the original city center. An area currently home to drug dealers and prostitutes will eventually become a transit-friendly mixed-use neighborhood interspersed with restored historic structures.

Rio de Janeiro is a natural wonder of a city that moves to samba and soccer, and has a beach-going infrastructure second to none. The Rio Master Plan was recently updated, and twenty-two corridor-oriented specific plans are in various stages of implementation. Planning is based on the guiding principles of sustainability and

respect for the unique natural features that are Rio's urban treasure. The dramatic granite and quartz outcroppings that define the visual landscape cannot be built upon above 100 meters; however, a full 40% of the Rio population lives in unpermitted “favelas”, some famously situated in beautiful hillside locations. We had the opportunity to tour one such working-poor neighborhood, Rochina, which is gradually being enfolded into city governance through infrastructure improvements, social programs and amenities such as new schools and hospitals.

Master-planned Brasilia, built on a tabula rasa of barren central plateau to become the capital in 1960, felt like a city of modernist monuments, individually impressive but sterile in their overall effect. The original Pilot Plan, designed by urban planner Lucio Costa and Brazilian uber-architect Oscar Niemeyer, laid out a metropolis shaped like a spread-winged bird, but the symbolic plan has been outrun by material growth, and Brasilia is now “multi-nucleated” into a number of satellite urban hubs, built in generic low-brow modern styles seemingly uninfluenced by the pure and poetic modernism of the original central city.

Some of Niemeyer’s finest works are here, including the impressive National Congress of Brazil, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Federal Court and the Cathedral of Brasilia. The modernist character of these buildings is spacious and expansive, combining curved forms and empty space in unconventional patterns. The spatial relationship between these buildings is an impressive example of monumental design in a pragmatic context. The longer one spends in Brasilia, the more Niemeyer’s vision comes alive.

The Brazil Tour is the fourth planning tour sponsored by the Northern Section that included 22 participants traveling 2.5 weeks to 7 locations. The three earlier tours were to Cuba (2003), China (2007), and India (2009). These planning tours help APA California planners understand planning in different cultures, which may be similar or can be quite different in how we deal with planning issues.

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An Urbanist View of Brazil

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Brasilia, photo courtesy of Scott Ruhland

Curitiba, a planner's mecca, is "the city of the people". It is legendary for its long-term implementation of sustainable practices, corridor-oriented growth and successful quality-of-life initiatives, and it did not disappoint. We rode their famous tube-stationed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that is the global model for many others. There are lively miles of pedestrian-only promenades through downtown, and bike lanes connecting parks and greenways. For many decades, the city has grown along pre-determined major transit corridors exactly as planned, with density tapering off from those corridors in a graduated manner. How do they do it? Long-term governmental will toward implementation, public education and promotion of social justice and sustainability measures. The IPPUC, which translates to the Institute for Research on Urban Planning, was created in 1965 to implement all aspects of the city's master planning. The 50 architects and 40 engineers of IPPUC have complete municipal backing to "just say no" to any proposal inconsistent with the overall vision. They also offer free courses in urban planning and sustainability to citizens and to other municipalities.

City Spaces, Social Places

Public spaces were conceived, designed and used quite differently in each city we visited, and offered a compelling meditation on how culture, politics, and everyday lives shape urban experience. In Sao Paulo, we spent a thrilling evening in the ultimate urban temple of Brazil, a futbol stadium. Different economic classes may have had different seating options, but all were united in collective excitement.

While Carnival is a once-a-year event in Rio, preparations and practices by the competitive Samba Schools occur nearly year-round. Samba school rehearsal nights are huge public gatherings for locals and visitors alike; they take place in large auditoriums, but the party sprawls out onto the street for several blocks.

According to Professor Vicente del Rio, outside space in Rio is a more valued part of everyday life than in Sao

Paulo, and you can see Cariocas (as Rio denizens are known) running, biking, rowing in the lagoon, surfing and playing soccer and volleyball at all hours. Rio boasts the world's largest urban forest, Parca Nacional de Tijuca, and there are many places around town that "feel like an urban Yosemite", in the words of one of our fellow travelers. Nowhere do the built and natural environments blend so seamlessly.

In Curitiba, IPPUC contacts told us that when pedestrian-only downtown boulevards were first introduced, business owners threatened continued vehicular use and the citizenry had to be encouraged into full utilization of the space. To this end, childrens' chalk-art contests were initiated as a pavement take-over, and they continue as a well-loved regular event many decades later.

Brazil on the World Stage

A striking component of Sao Paulo's Master Plan is a series of "Open City" initiatives, with explicit measures and action items for ensuring the city's future global presence. These involve airport improvements, facilitating transportation connectivity with Europe, North America and the rest of the world, hosting global events, an emphasis on tourism amenities, and broadband access for all. This is what all major cities desire, but few long-range plans so deliberately address the steps needed to forward a municipality's global prominence.

"Futbol" is the religion practiced by all, in the words of our Rio tour guide, and each city we visited was in excited preparations for the 2014 World Cup. On the other hand, we found mixed feelings on the part of Rio residents about the 2016 Olympics. While some are excited for the opportunity to showcase their city on the world stage, others expressed concern that economic benefits resulting from the games will not be equitably realized. We met with the Rio office of AECOM, who are master planning the Olympics. Their myriad challenges include "branding" Rio for global consumption, planning for the legacy uses of Olympic infrastructure, and the daunting politics of inter-jurisdictional coordination. There is a lot of work to do in four years. Some Cariocas think it may get done in classic Brazilian fashion, which is to say, at the last minute.

Natural Wonders

Brazil is a nation of astonishing natural beauty, and we scheduled a few days for the non-urban wonders. Paraty is a picturesque locale for enjoying the beaches and bays of the beautiful "Costa Verde". We day-sailed among offshore

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An Urbanist View of Brazil

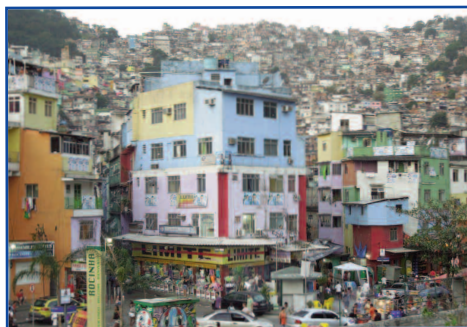
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islands, and photographed old churches artfully framed by cobbled streets and verdant mountains. However, the penultimate natural destination was magnificent Iguacu Falls, where one awakes to the chatter of toucans and macaws. The falls are located near the confluence of the Iguacu and Parana Rivers and form the border between Argentina and Brazil. About 80% of the 1.7-mile-long falls lie in Argentina, with the remaining 20% in Brazil. A visit to the Argentine side brings you up close and personal with the massive, roaring cataracts, while the Brazil side offers jaw-dropping views of the full panoramic expanse, impressive beyond anticipation.

Some Final Thoughts

Urbanistas in Sao Paulo and Rio discussed their “multiple centralities”, and the many cities that are collectively Rio are reflected in the twenty-two specific plans for that city. Every large city we visited had diversely distinct neighborhoods and satellite urban hubs. As planners we may want to question any foregone assumptions about the scale of the units we generate plans for, as the appropriate entities for analysis might be small neighborhood enclaves, individual street corridors or regional metropolitan clusters rather than a unitary “city”.

Planning for the well-being of all citizens is prominent here. Brazil came out of a lengthy military dictatorship in 1980, and the relatively new relationship with democracy plays out in an assumed emphasis on planning for social justice and equality. While we engage with environmental justice and similar concerns in the United States, in our discussions with Brazilian urbanistas the quest for social equality seemed implicit and prioritized through initiatives for transit and infrastructure connections for poor neighborhoods, and design competitions for public housing.



Rocinha, photo courtesy of Alice Daly, AICP

Planner-oriented travel generates new perspectives and allows us to view our practice with fresh eyes. In each Brazilian urban setting, we saw the deep influence of culture, history and the practices of everyday living on the built environment. We saw our international colleagues’ challenges and successes, and reflected on how to apply these lessons at home. We would suggest that even local field trips, perhaps to several cities in your region of California, would yield comparative visions that can open your eyes.

You can read further reflections from members of our group, and view many photos on the trip blog site: <http://norcalapabrazil.blogspot.com/>

Recommended reading on Brazil:

Beyond Brasilia: Contemporary Urbanism in Brazil, edited by Vicente del Rio and William Siembieda

Brazil’s Modern Architecture, by Elisabetta Andreoli and Adrian Forty

Alice Daly, AICP, is a planner with the County of Santa Cruz and Scott Ruhland is an associate planner with the City of Fremont.

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“Quick Leg Info” Feature Now on Website Homepage

go! APA California Chapter has a quick legislative information feature -members can now quickly and easily access key information right from the home page, without signing in. Under the new QUICK LEG INFO feature (under the Consultant Directory link), just click on the “Hot Bill List” link. That link connects members to reports on the hot bills, APA California Chapter positions, and the status of each measure.

Please take the time to review this time-saving new feature.

Cal Planner is proud to highlight and showcase each of the eight APA California Sections.

Inland Empire Section Planning News

By Leisa Lukes, Inland Empire Section Director

The Inland Empire Section (IES) is comprised of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. These two counties comprise a vast area of nearly 30,000 square miles and over 4 million in population. San Bernadino alone is the largest county in size in the contiguous United States and together, San Bernadino and Riverside Counties have been one of the fastest growing areas in the United States in the past half century. One reason is that many Los Angeles area workers moved to the Inland Empire to take advantage of its quality communities and relatively affordable housing.

The world-renown resort cities of the Coachella Valley are located in eastern Riverside County. The IES hosted the very successful 2012 APA California Chapter Conference in Rancho Mirage, one of nine cities in the Coachella Valley, from October 21-24. Over 1,000 attendees had an enjoyable and educational time. The opening-day golf tournament created many fun memories for the 44 players, several of whom took away great prizes but, alas, the 2013



Cadillac ATS went back to the dealer as no one got the lucky hole-in-one.

We are especially proud that three of the

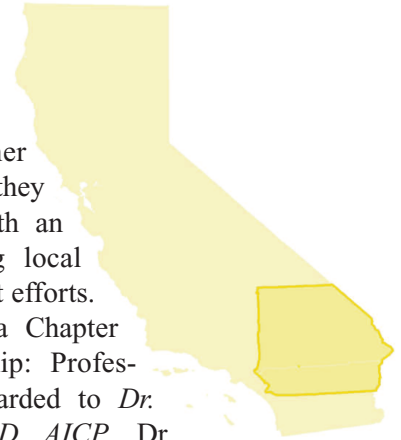
APA California Chapter award winners recognized at the conference were also 2012 Inland Empire Section award winners. *The Ontario International Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP)* received the Focused Issue Planning Award as an innovative and comprehensive planning document of unusually high merit addressing the impacts related to airport planning. The ALCUP, developed by the City of Ontario, is the first time a city in the state of California has developed this type of document, which is typically developed by an Airport Land Use Commission.



The City of Cathedral City was the recipient of the Grassroots Initiative Award for its *ECD Kids and Community Program*. This unique and inspirational environmental education and awareness program joins together government staff, community activists, educators, artists, environmentalists, local businesses, volunteers and youth. The collaborative team creates hands-on environmental projects that reduce landfill waste and beautify the landscape. The Anti-Litter Decorative Trash

Can Project and other endeavors are unique as they provide local youth with an active role in planning local community enhancement efforts.

The APA California Chapter Distinguished Leadership: Professional Planner was awarded to *Dr. James L. Mulvihill, Ph.D., AICP*. Dr. Mulvihill has distinguished himself as an academic planner, citizen planner, practicing planner and author in the Inland Empire over the past 30 years. He is Professor Emeritus in the Geography Department at California State University San Bernardino, creator of the University's Urban Planning Certificate, and author of a 2009 book on the Practice of Planning in the Inland Empire. Dr. Mulvihill continues to serve as a City of San Bernardino Planning Commissioner as he has for the last six years. Congratulations again to all of the winners and the best to them as they move on to the National Awards!



Ongoing Section Activities

In addition to monthly board meetings, the Inland Empire Section holds many informational and entertaining programs throughout the year, several of which are in partnership with other related professional organizations, such as the US Green Building Council (USGBC) the Association of Environmental Planners (AEP) and the American Public Works Association (APWA).

The Inland Empire Section is also a sponsor of ArtVULUPS (Art as a Vehicle to Understand Land Use Planning and Sustainability). Its mission is to communicate land use planning and sustainability concepts through art and creative expression. This public art process involves a collaborative approach involving artists, urban planners, educators and the public, and is the result of a ten-year assemblage of relationships encompassing geography, environmental science, land use planning, sustainability, art and creativity concepts. ArtVULUPS was the topic of two sessions at the 2012 National APA conference in Los Angeles.

Please visit our website, www.ies-apa.org, for more information. We encourage all Inland Empire members and others to *get involved!*

More Than 1000 Attend a Successful APA California Conference in Rancho Mirage!



With a bright sun and the San Jacinto Mountains as a backdrop, the 2012 APA California Chapter conference in Rancho Mirage was a great success. The official theme of this year's conference was "Prepare, Plan, Preserve", and the more than 1000 attendees enjoyed a diverse and extensive program of events and sessions. The Inland Empire Section and the Conference Host Committee, working with the City of Rancho Mirage, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and many,



many sponsors worked hard to organize and present an outstanding conference: From the welcoming accommodations of the Rancho Las Palmas Resort, to the convenience of the upgraded mobile phone app, to the smooth operation of the substantial schedule of activities. With National APA President Mitchell Silver, AICP in attendance, we know that he saw the California Chapter at its best.



The California Chapter conference provided two and a half days of concurrent sessions and keynote speakers addressing a wide range of planning topics. As noted by one

attendee, the health of our communities was a recurring theme in the sessions as well as in the presentations of both keynote speakers. Richard J. Jackson, Professor and Chair of Environmental Health Sciences at the Fielding School of Public Health at UCLA and from Kristin Eberhard, Legal Director of Western Energy and Climate Projects in the National Resources Defense Council's energy program each challenged their audiences to consider the effect of city planning decisions on the health and well-being of our families and neighbors.

Of course, education and inspiration are only two objectives of a California Chapter conference. Networking and socializing with colleagues, clients and friends are also reasons to gather together, and there were many opportunities for both. On Sunday, forty-four golfers took to the links for the APA California Golf Tournament, held at the resort. Prizes for longest drives, closest shots to the holes and lowest team score were awarded by Leisa Lukes, Inland Empire Section Director.



Monday evening, the California Planning Foundation (CPF) Reception and Silent/Live Auction broke all records for raising funds for CPF's Student Scholarship program. Steve Preston, FAICP and Jennifer Lilley, AICP provided energy at the gavel as prizes were auctioned, birthdays celebrated and good will enjoyed by all. Tuesday night, following the Consultant's Wine-and-Cheese Reception, the APA All Star Band took to the stage for a late night blast that had planners partying past midnight.



Continued on page 7

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2012 APA California Conference

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During the day, a more serious look at how we collaborate could be found at Monday's Awards Luncheon where agencies, firms and individuals were celebrated for improving our communities and advancing the profession. Meanwhile, throughout the conference, busses headed out for mobile workshop tours, including an 'up close and personal' encounter with wind machines spinning in 30 mph winds, and the Sunnylands Retreat Center, including an unexpected and rare tour of the Annenberg Estate. The closing plenary session was anchored by a provocative dialogue among four city planners who now lead local government agencies.



Keeping everyone on track was a dedicated group of volunteers and local planners who provided a hassle-free experience, while the attendees could keep their own schedules with an upgraded and expanded Conference mobile app. The app allowed individuals to tailor her or his own conference schedule, access detailed speaker biographies and session information, and receive important updates while the conference was in progress. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes activities that make a conference go, and the Inland Empire Section rose to the occasion.

So, while one 'wascally wabbit' missed out on the conference, everyone else who made that important "left toin at Albekoikee" found the 2012 California Chapter Conference in the Coachella Valley to be an outstanding highlight of the Chapter's big year. The Inland Empire Section and the local Conference Host Committee thank everyone for the opportunity to host our fellow planners, and we proudly pass the torch to the Central Section for the 2013 Conference in Visalia.

*Craig Ewing, AICP
2012 Conference Co-Chair*

*Les Johnson
2012 Conference Co-Chair*



Continued on page 8

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2012 APA California Conference

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Golf Tournament Highlights

By Leisa Lukes

The Prepare, Plan, Preserve Golf Tournament hosted by the 2012 Conference Committee was held on Sunday, October 21, and provided a grand kick-off for a very successful conference.

Forty-four conference attendees enjoyed blue skies, warm breezes and beautiful mountain vistas while they competed for a variety of prizes at the Rancho Las Palmas Country Club. The golf course, located on site at the conference facility, offered an excellent opportunity to stretch one's physical bounds before embarking on 3 days of educational, networking, and entertaining events provided by the conference.



Thanks to Jessup Auto Center in Cathedral City, prizes for hole-in-one opportunities included a 2013 Cadillac ATS, 3-day/2-night stays at TPS Sawgrass, and a set of news Callaway Golf Clubs. Although there was not a hole-in-one winner during the round, a number of talented players met the following challenges and were presented with generous gift cards from local and national restaurants:

- Longest Drive - MenJason Pack, Fehr & Peers, Riverside
- Longest Drive - WomenAlice Angus, Retired, City of Orange
- Closest to the Pin - Men....Dan Bucko, Hart Howerton, San Francisco
- Closest to the Pin - WomenStephanie Tang, Dudek, Riverside
- 4-Person Scramble Winners.....Joe Lim, City of Indio, Indio
- Steve Lustro, City of Montclair, Montclair
- Ivan Jackson, Esterline, Coachella Valley
- William Hoose, Golder Associates, Irvine

Prizes were also provided to several lucky raffle ticket winners that included gift baskets from Starbucks and Campanielle's Italian Shop, and several bottles of wine from Tulip Hill Winery, which has its Tasting Room located right in Rancho Mirage.

The beverage cart was sponsored by Heffernan Professional Practice Insurance Brokers and gift bags with multiple freebies and refreshments donated by the Cities of La Quinta, Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City, and Palm Springs: Dudek, The Altum Group, and NAI Consultants; and Golfsmith were provided to all the players making everyone a winner.

Stay tuned for the 2013 APA California Conference . . . who knows, a Tennis Tournament anyone?



Conference photos courtesy of Kevin Viera

2012 APA CA Conference Volunteers: Success through Commitment & Camaraderie

On behalf of the 2012 APA CA Conference Committee, we want to express our gratitude to all the volunteers who provided behind the scenes support to ensure that everyone at the conference had an enjoyable time. In particular, we want to make sure that our entire membership is aware of the stellar performance of our volunteers in the front trenches, namely, Peter Almlie, Erika Michellotti, Andrew Reker, and Joanna Kaufman. Their commitment of fulfilling their promise to volunteer speaks volumes of their high caliber professionalism. We also want to recognize a group of student from Sonoma State University who assisted during the California Planning Foundation's auction.

Margaret Park from Agua Caliente, Cathy Issacson, City of Rancho Mirage, Les Johnson, City of La Quinta, Jim Sullivan from CVAG, Michele Mician, City of Palm Springs, Janna Minsk, City of Santa Paula joined us in volunteering for registration, mobile workshops, session coordination, and other events such as reception, awards, etc. We want to thank Kevin Viera for his contribution of photographing the entire conference. We could not have had a successful conference without your priceless support! Thank you all.

*Meenaxi R. Panakkal, AICP Miguel A. Vazquez, AICP
2012 Conference Volunteers Co-Chairs*



L to R: Peter Almlie, Joanna Kaufman, Miguel A. Vazquez, Cathy Issacson, and Meenaxi R. Panakkal

Congratulations to the APA California Award Recipients

APA California is honored to recognize the outstanding planners, projects and planning efforts throughout the state. These efforts are a tribute to our state's rich planning history and the promise of our future. We hope they inspire you in your journey.

Look for indepth articles on some of the award winning projects in future issues of *Cal Planner*.



Award of Excellence Planning Achievement

Advocacy/Social Change/Diversity Planning Award

Villages at Cabrillo

Century Villages at Cabrillo; Century Housing;
City of Long Beach; The Planning Center | DC&E



Award of Excellence Planning Achievement

Hard Won Victory Award

Thousand Oaks Boulevard Specific Plan

City of Thousand Oaks;

Thousand Oaks Boulevard Association

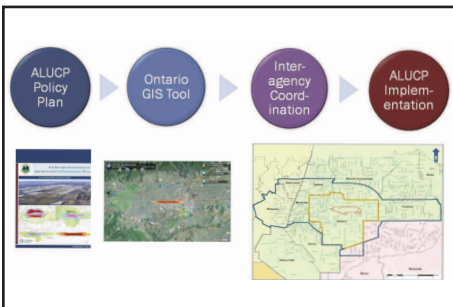


Award of Merit

Planning Achievement Academic Award

Leveraging Lawrence Berkeley National Lab's Second
Campus for Regional Economic Development

University of California, Berkeley, Department of City
& Regional Planning, Sustainable Economic
Development Studio – Fall 2011



Award of Excellence

Focused Issue Planning Award

Ontario International Airport Land Use
Compatibility Plan

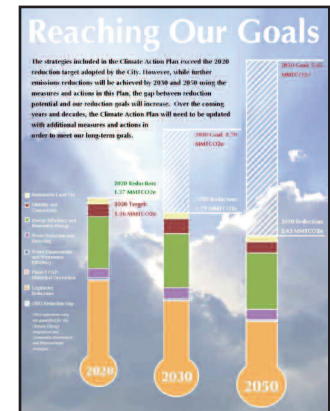
City of Ontario Planning Department; Mead & Hunt,
Inc.; Ontario Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan
Technical Advisory Committee



Award of Excellence Planning Project Award

Rock Springs Road and Richland Road Safe Routes
to School Improvements

City of San Marcos; RBF Consulting,
A Company of Michael Baker Corporation



Award of Merit

Innovation in Green Community Planning Award

Sacramento Climate Action Plan
City of Sacramento; Ascent; Mintier Harnish



Award of Excellence

Innovation in Green Community Planning Award

Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy for
San Diego Bay

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability



Award of Merit

Planning Implementation Award for a Small Jurisdiction

City of Newman Downtown Revitalization
City of Newman; RRM Design Group



Award of Excellence

Best Practices Award

TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program
San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)

2012 APA California Awards

Continued from page 9



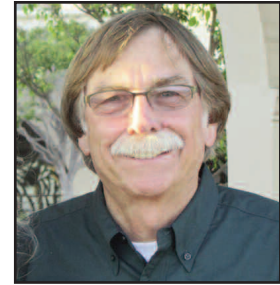
Award of Excellence Section Activity Award

The PLAN Sac Valley Mentoring Program Sacramento Valley Section, in association with the Young Planners Group and the PLAN Sac Valley Steering and Advisory Committees



Award of Excellence Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner

James L. Mulvihill, AICP, Ph.D.



Award of Excellence Distinguished Service Award

Paul Wack, AICP



Award of Excellence Distinguished Leadership Award for an Organization

Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI)
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative



Award of Excellence Distinguished Leadership Award for a Planning Department

Santa Monica Bike Action Plan
City of Santa Monica



Award of Excellence Planning Landmark Award

California Coastal Protection Program
California Coastal Commission



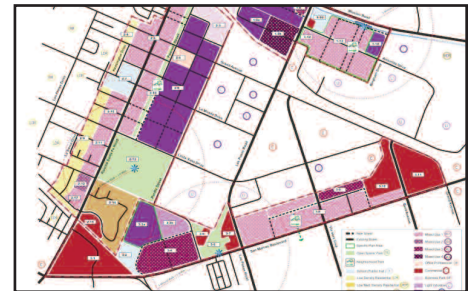
Award of Merit Grassroots Initiative Award

South Bay Bicycle Master Plan
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition;
Alta Planning + Design; South Bay Bicycle Coalition



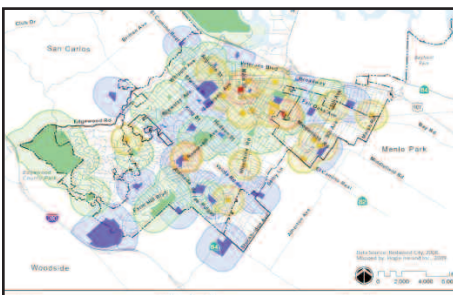
Award of Excellence Grassroots Initiative Award

City of Cathedral City's ECD Kids & Community Program
City of Cathedral City; S.C.R.A.P. Gallery



Award of Merit Comprehensive Planning Award for a Small Jurisdiction

San Marcos General Plan Update
City of San Marcos; AECOM



Award of Excellence Comprehensive Planning Award for a Small Jurisdiction

City of Redwood City General Plan
City of Redwood City; Hogle-Ireland, Inc.



Award of Excellence Comprehensive Planning Award for a Large Jurisdiction

Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan
Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan Update Team;
City of San Jose, Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement; David J. Powers and Assoc.

Awards Jury
Juliana Delgado, AICP
Susan Frost
Peter Noonan, AICP
Jeff Schwein, AICP
Diego Velasco, AICP

Planning Landmark and Pioneer Awards Jury
Juan Borelli, AICP
Vivian Kahn, FAICP
George Osner, AICP
Miguel Angel Vasquez, AICP

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Special thanks to URS Corporation for producing this years awards show





Congratulations to the APA California/CPF Student Scholarship Winners

Continued from page 10

Outstanding Student Award (\$5,000)

Sean Noonan, Cal Poly Pomona

Outstanding Student Award, Runner Up (\$3,000)

Carley Markovitz, USC

Outstanding Student Award, Runner Up (\$3,000)

Nicole Streegan, Cal Poly SLO

Outstanding Student Award, Runner Up (\$3,000)

Stephanie Roxas, Cal Poly Pomona

Diversity Award (\$3,000)

Alberto Esqueda-Duarte, USC

PCR Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Arianna Allahyarm, Cal Poly Pomona
Sidra Fatima, Cal Poly Pomona
William Kavadas, Cal Poly SLO

David Wilcox Scholarship (\$1,000)

Jacqueline Illum, USC

Atkins Global Scholarship (\$1,000)

Rachel Cohen, Cal Poly SLO

Ken Milam Scholarship (\$1,000)

Veronica Flores, San Jose State University

Paul Wack Sustainability Award (\$1,000)

Dana Hoffman, Cal Poly SLO

Central Section Award (\$1,000)

Russell Fey Scholarship

Jordan Cowell, Cal Poly SLO

Central Coast Section Award (\$1,000)

Shannon Baker, UC Santa Barbara
Matthew Downing, Cal Poly SLO
Whitney Wilkinson, UC Santa Barbara

Inland Empire Section Award (\$1,000)

My La, Cal Poly Pomona

Los Angeles Section Award (\$1,000)

Stephanie Byrd, USC
Jason Van Patten, Cal Poly Pomona
Chirag Rabari, UCLA
Jose Tchopourian, Cal State Northridge

Northern Section Award (\$1,000)

Sonja Gajic, San Francisco State University
Ruth Miller, UC Berkeley
Anna Ponting, Stanford
Jason Su, San Jose State University

Orange Section Award (\$1,000)

Mandy Leung, UC Irvine

Sacramento Valley Section Award (\$1,000)

Rebekah Funes Casey, Cal State University, Chico

Sacramento Valley Section Legacy Award (\$1,000)

Alicia Brown, UC Davis

San Diego Section Award (\$1,000)

Audra Antczak, San Diego State University
Michelle Chung, UC San Diego

Scholarship Honorable Mention

(1-Year APA Student Membership)

Caitlin Cullen, USC
Alesia Hsiao, Cal Poly Pomona
Zach Lewis, San Jose State University
Mathew O'Carroll, UC Santa Barbara
Adam Rubin, USC
Christopher Young, Cal Poly Pomona



Continuing Student Scholarship (\$1,000)

Hannah Birnbaum, UC Berkeley
Peter Enzminger, USC
Brian Harrington, Cal Poly SLO
David Keyon, San Jose State University
Samantha Mesuro, UC Irvine
Robert Rich, UCLA
Tessa Joy Salzman, Cal Poly SLO
Tom Vo, Cal Poly Pomona
Christopher Young, Cal Poly Pomona

Graduating Student Merit Award

(1-Year APA Student Membership)

Meaghan Mroz Barrett, SLO
Matthew Brill, UC Berkeley
Alma Costa, Cal Poly Pomona
Anthony Guardado, USC
Christin Kenyon, UCLA
Avalon Schultz, SJSU
Suzanne Schwab, UC Irvine
Marina Swain, Cal Poly Pomona
Jacqueline Terrell, SLO

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you forgotten your password? To reset it, or to login for the first time, click on the link "Forgot your Password?" in the lower left area of the homepage; type in the email address APA California Chapter has on file for you, and you will receive an email with your user name and a link to reset your password.

“Reinventing the California Planning Roundtable”

By Al Zelinka, FACIP and Miguel A. Vazquez, AICP

The California Planning Roundtable (CPR) is an organization of experienced planning professionals who are members of the American Planning Association (APA). Membership is balanced between the public and private sectors, and between Northern and Southern California. The mission of the Roundtable is to provide a forum for prominent planners to exercise creativity and leadership in promoting understanding of California's critical public policy issues, and recommending action.

As a young planner, David Booher, FAICP envisioned an assemblage of prominent planners, members of the California Chapter, to lead into the increasingly complex challenges facing land use policy and practice in the State. Upon this vision of collaboration, information sharing, and networking, he founded the California Planning Roundtable (CPR).

Since its inception, CPR has produced various publications concerning cutting edge issues. It has also provided a forum for expanding the role and the discourse of the planning practice in our communities' quality of life. For example, one of the most active and ambitious of CPR's endeavors is the “Re-Inventing the General Plan” project which seeks to identify outstanding aspects of the most innovative General Plans in California. A model in the works is the Healthy Communities Element from the Riverside County's General Plan which highlights two unique catalytic characteristics: 1) a tool for changing the narrative to include health into planning processes and 2) an engine for collaboration with non-traditional partners working towards building healthy environments. CPR also produced “The California General Plan Glossary” in 2003, which is currently being updated. This new version will include illustrations and a translated version in Spanish. The effort is being conducted in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the Art as a Vehicle to Understand Land Use Planning and Sustainability Project (Art VULUPS).

CPR's success spans over thirty years. The organization's efforts have been recognized by the American Planning Association with its Distinguished Service Award (2000) and its members regularly organize top quality discussion panels on topics of leadership, ethics, law, diversity, and emerging issues at the American Planning Association's national and state conferences. In more recent times, the effects of the great recession, the era of SB375 and the dissolution of Redevelopment Agencies have inspired CPR's membership to explore these great planning challenges with renewed energy and purpose -- all in the name of advancing planning practice to achieve a better California.

During the last convening meeting in Los Angeles, under the leadership of CPR's President Al Zelinka, FAICP, the membership sought to reinvent its organizational approach to future projects by sorting itself out into five strategic committees to address the following pressing and emerging planning areas:

- Regionalism
- Public Health
- Planning and Demographics
- Public Finance
- Infill/Density

Each committee is actively preparing to have a working plan for discussion at the annual retreat that will take place this year in November in San Francisco. As the discussions take place, each committee will integrate and consider the following:

- Sustainability (3Es-Environment, Economy and Equity)
 - Planners' leadership role
 - Resistance to and managing change
 - Who will be the key leaders to effectuate change (city, county, state, COG, and federal levels)
 - Audience for which the work product will be produced for
- The work products may include one or more of the following:

following:

- Full research report
- Short report
- Quick hit
- Facilitated process
- On-going web-based product (such as the Reinventing the General Plan project)
- Legislative proposal
- Conference session
- Series of articles
- Issue paper resulting in a Call for Action
- Expansion of the General Plan project
- Videos



CPR members at work at the 2012 Convening meeting in Los Angeles, CA

This article was written for information purposes, but it is also a call for California planners to identify and seize opportunities to participate in the exchange of ideas and collaboration, as well as to act on your visions of how to advance planning practice in California -- much like David did when he conceived the California Planning Roundtable. In ways big and small, we can make a difference.

For more information on CPR, please visit www.cprroundtable.org. If you have ideas or information you'd like to share, or if you would like to collaborate with the CPR on a paper, please contact Al Zelinka, FAICP at azelinka@riversideca.gov or Miguel A. Vazquez, AICP at [mvazquez@rivcocha.org](mailto:m vazquez@rivcocha.org)

President's Message

By Kevin J. Keller, AICP, President, kevin.keller@lacity.org

Moving Our Profession Forward with Improved Member Services, Value and Transparency



It's been said before, but time flies! My term as your APA California President is coming to a close at the end of the year. It's been a great privilege to serve on the board as President these past two years and work with such a dedicated group of volunteer boardmembers and talented staff. I also am so thankful that we have an excellent President-Elect ready to step into the role.

Please welcome Brooke Peterson as our new APA California President. Brooke brings her experience as a Section Director for the San Diego Section and Conference Co-Chair for the 2010 San Diego Conference with her in assuming this role. We are very lucky to have Brooke take the reins!

As the outgoing APA California President, I wanted to spend a minute to appreciate all the volunteer effort that goes into the great things APA does for our members.

First and foremost, APA California has eight fantastic local sections with programs, mixers, professional development activities, newsletters, emails, and websites to provide a local level link to our membership. Each section has boardmembers and volunteers that give their valuable time to serving our members. If you ever catch yourself thinking, "wow- I'd love to get more involved in APA but I just don't know how!", then attending a local section board meeting is your key to getting involved!

And what about our fantastic state Conference? This year's conference concluded on October 24 in wonderful Rancho Mirage and got rave reviews. The four day event was hugely successful, helped by absolutely perfect desert sunshine, fantastic sessions and events, clockwork precision in scheduling, and a great hotel venue. The mobile workshops, sessions, and networking events got high marks and we owe it all to our volunteer boardmembers at the state and section level. We also couldn't have done it without APA California's staff and support. Did I mention we've kept our conference registration rate unchanged through all of this? One low \$450 price gets you everything... and gets you enough AICP certification maintenance credits to meet all of your needs for the year!

Let's not forget this past year was also a conference "doubleheader" where APA California hosted the 2012 APA National Conference in Los Angeles as well. Both conferences unfolded without a hitch, raising both the profile of California on the national APA stage, as well as showcasing the Coachella Valley and Inland Empire within our state. Well done!

Looking ahead, let me be the first to say "save the date" for next year's 2013 APA California Conference to be held in beautiful Visalia, located in the central valley. Get ready to experience the central valley like you have never experienced it before! The event kicks off October 6, 2013 and concludes on October 9, 2013. See you there!

Although I am off the hook as President now, I'm not going far. I'll be serving the board as Past-President next year and working on the Strategic Plan for APA California. If you have ideas to help propel our organization's operation into the future, I want to hear about it. Drop me an email at kevin.keller@lacity.org and I look forward to seeing you at the next APA event!



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CAL PLANNER

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Congratulations to California's Newest Candidate CEP and CTP Advanced Specialty Certification Recipients!

By Juan Borrelli, AICP, Vice President for Professional Development

CONGRATULATIONS to the latest group of distinguished APA California members who, in May 2012, earned either the AICP Certified Environmental Planner (CEP) or AICP Certified Transportation Planner (CTP) advanced specialty certification credential. Nationally, 25 planners sat for the CEP exam and 21 passed (including the 4 California planners listed below), which represents an 84% pass rate. 32 planners sat for the CTP exam and just 14 passed (including the 2 California planners listed below), which represents a 44% pass rate.

These advanced specialty certifications (ASC) recognize an individual's in-depth knowledge, experience, and leadership skills in either environmental or transportation planning. They were granted to AICP certified planners who have demonstrated at least eight years of professional experience in their respective fields and have successfully passed a rigorous examination. Please join the entire APA California Board of Directors in recognizing their expertise and this important achievement.

AICP Certified Environmental Planner:

Stephanie Blanco, AICP CEP (Inland Empire Section)

Douglas T. Feremenga, AICP CEP (Inland Empire Section)

Richard Miller, AICP CEP (Northern Section)

Evan Paul, AICP CEP (Northern Section)

AICP Certified Transportation Planner:

Lesley D. Lowe, AICP CTP (Northern Section)

Michael Louis Schmitt, AICP CTP (Sacramento Valley Section)

Click here to see a list of the APA California members who passed the inaugural ASC exams in 2011. For more information about the ASC Program, please visit: <http://www.planning.org/asc/>.

Cal Planner Production Schedule

Issue	Submit Articles	Issue E-mailed*
Winter 2013	December 1, 2012	January 1
Spring 2013	March 1	April 1
Summer 2013	June 1	July 1
Fall 2013	September 1	October 1

Dates subject to change. *Issue will be sent by eblast during this week. For article and photo specifications, display and call card information, please check out the website at www.apacalifornia.com.

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Student Sagacity

Planning as Play: A Fun Approach to Planning

By Cindy Ma, LEED AP, APA California Student Representative



Community participation is a fundamental component to the planning process and provides local knowledge that informs and strengthens planning decisions. Through the involvement of the community in the planning process, people are able to take part in the creation and decision-making of their communities. As the planning field evolves, so does the need for innovative and creative participation methods that stretch beyond typical town hall meetings and community workshops.

A fun participation method that has sprung up in the last couple of years is the concept of “planning as play”, as illustrated by urban planner James Rojas’ “Place It!” initiative. Inspired by the idea of learning through art, Rojas developed “Place It” as an interactive participation technique that informs and engages people in the planning process. This form of community participation is a spin on traditional methods and focuses on stimulating the imagination and creativity of people to break the ice and produce insightful and thoughtful ideas.

Unlike traditional community meetings, a “Place It!” workshop consists of mainly play and little to no formal presentations or graphic visuals. Within an hour or so participants are asked to physically build their ideas about a particular planning topic—i.e. their ideal neighborhood, and then share it with the group. To build their ideas participants are provided with a sheet of construction paper and hundreds of randomly collected objects. These random objects include legos, buttons, bottle caps, yarn, and figurines, all collected by or

given to Rojas over the years.

Through the use of these random objects, the “Place It!” workshop makes learning about and participating in the planning process a more abstract and fun activity. Participants engaged in the activity can let loose their imagination and feel free to express their ideas without worry of the final depiction needing to be accurately represented. There is no scale and no parameters involved, just paper, objects, and their ideas. The final result is often times an interesting art piece that lends itself to providing the participant with a sense of ownership and investment in the planning process.

In the spring quarter of 2012, James Rojas visited Cal Poly San Luis Obispo as a guest lecturer to share his experience in planning, and the concept of “Place It!”. Rojas’ visit was sponsored by the local APA Central Coast subsection and included a lecture at the Cal Poly campus, a professional mixer, and a students and professionals interactive session. During the interactive session, students and local planning professionals participated in a “Place It” workshop, building their favorite childhood play area. At the end of the session, each participant was given the opportunity to share their product and discuss this method of community participation.

As mentioned before, community participation plays an integral role in the planning process. With the ever-changing demographics and communities in cities, it is important to keep a fresh mind about different ways to engage as much of the community as possible. With initiatives such as “Place It” and the concept of “planning as play”, community participation can be broadened to address the changing make-up of cities and be a fun and creative planning act



Sonoma County's *Healthy by Design* Workbook: Planning and Public Health Professionals Team With University Students and Faculty for a Healthier County

By Thomas Jacobson, JD, MCP, AICP, Professor, Environmental Studies and Planning Director, Center for Sustainable Communities, Sonoma State University



Sebastopol's "Skategarden" skate park/community garden/art center, which are featured in the *Healthy by Design* Workbook.

In 2008, the Center for Sustainable Communities at Sonoma State University was approached by a group of planning directors in Sonoma County. "Would we be interested in talking with them about a possible project linking land use planning to public health?" "Sure," we said, without any particular sense of what any of us would be getting ourselves into.

Three years later the "CSC" received APACA's 2011 Academic Award of Excellence for its work on *Healthy By Design: A Public Health and Land Use Planning Workbook*. In between a partnership formed between faculty and students from Sonoma State, the County's Department of Health Services, planning staff from ten local governments in Sonoma County, representatives from the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and the County's Transportation Authority, and the non-profit Institute for Ecology and the Economy. The partnership would identify a project unlike any we'd seen – unique to Sonoma County and its experience in dealing with the relationship between land use planning and public health.

The Issue

In Sonoma County, chronic diseases are the leading cause of illness and death. Cancer, heart disease, stroke, chronic lower respiratory disease, and diabetes account for about half of all deaths in the county. Reducing quality of life. Obesity is a significant contributor to certain chronic diseases that occur in Sonoma County, where the rates for children and adults are alarmingly comparable to the state and national trends.

Defining the Project

Our partnership agreed on the need for a tool to facilitate actions connecting land use planning to the reduction of obesity and chronic disease. The format, we determined, should be a workbook that would be useful for:

- Elected officials looking for opportunities to address community-based health concerns
- Cities embarking on a General Plan update

- Community groups concerned with the overall topic of how planning can address health concerns
- The public health community as it continues to develop connections with land use planning processes
- A city's planning staff researching what's been done regarding a particular land use planning/public health topic, in Sonoma County and beyond
- Government-business-nonprofit-community collaborations exploring how to improve community health

The *Workbook* was not intended to be a comprehensive collection of planning activities that relate to public health. That, we knew from our student researchers, had been done. Rather, the *Workbook* would focus on topics in which there is clearly evident interest in Sonoma County and that either: 1) have been addressed by some Sonoma County jurisdictions, providing models for others in the county; or 2) haven't yet been tackled in the county in meaningful ways. So, we set out to determine topics of particular importance to Sonoma County, coming up with the following eight:

- Access to open space and outdoor recreation
- Access to healthy food
- Walkable communities
- Opportunities to bicycle
- Senior health
- Youth health
- Indoor air quality and land use decisions involving proximity to sources of air contaminants
- Land use decisionmaking to promote access to health care

What We Put In The Workbook

To promote our goals, the *Workbook* includes:

- An inventory of general plan policies currently in place in Sonoma County that address our "eight topics"
- A series of success stories from around the county in terms of policies, regulations, programs, and projects. A few of those highlighted include:

Santa Rosa's Bayer Neighborhood Park and Gardens, offering garden plots to residents of a low income neighborhood, adjacent to and engaged with an elementary school, and utilizing funds from the City's impact fee program for parks and recreational facilities.

Sebastopol's Laguna "Skategarden" skateboard park and community garden, which brings together a community-designed skate park, a garden with plots available to local residents, demonstration areas for sustainable gardening practices, and active participation by the arts community.

Sonoma County's *Healthy By Design Workbook*

Continued from page 17

Healdsburg's Medical Services zoning district, which concentrates medical services and facilities around the Healdsburg District Hospital and Alliance Medical Center with the goals of encouraging synergies of medical practices and referrals and providing a full array of medical care to the city and its surrounding region.

- "Innovation from elsewhere" – brief stories from beyond Sonoma County describing outstanding approaches to issues of concern in the county such as New York City's "Safe Routes for Seniors" program and London's "Older Persons' Playgrounds."
- A resource guide to organizations, websites, sample policies, evidence-based research, etc.

Addressing social equity

Cutting across the *Workbook's* various sections is consideration of social equity as it relates to the land use planning/public health connection, recognizing that lower income communities may be especially vulnerable to certain health problems related to their environments (e.g., greater exposure to air pollution, less access to healthy, affordable food, and to parks and open space as resources for outdoor recreation).

Using the Workbook

The County's Department of Health Services (DHS) has taken the lead in bringing the *Workbook* to Sonoma County communities. The *Workbook* itself can be viewed online at www.healthysonoma.org. They've met with Sonoma County local governments, explaining the *Workbook*, how it might be used, etc. As a result, the *Workbook* has begun to have a role in general plan updates in the County. And DHS staff now engaged in interviews with various planning staff to determine how they have used the *Workbook* and what DHS can do to support their efforts. There is an active conversation about how to continue to update the *Workbook* so that new information and ideas can be added based on ongoing experience.

That conversation among planners in 2008 about working together on a public health-related project has resulted in a countywide collaboration that celebrates what has been done in Sonoma County, provides a tool for learning from and being inspired by past experience, and offers a guide for what may be possible in the future.



Sebastopol's "Skategarden" skate park/community garden/art center, which are featured in the *Healthy by Design Workbook*.



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Scott Hettrick - Citizens Planner

By Lisa L. Flores, Senior Planner, City of Arcadia

APA California's 2011 Distinguished Leadership Award – Citizens Planner went to Scott Hettrick, who is neither a professional planner nor an elected official, yet he has exemplified the initiative and leadership of a devoted professional.

Everyone can learn from this individual who has given so much back to his community of Arcadia, located in the San Gabriel Valley area of Los Angeles County. As a passionate member of his community, he has initiated his own planning effort to preserve Arcadia's history. Mr. Hettrick has had a long-time interest in historic preservation and has been a board member of Arcadia Historical Society since 2007. Absent a City Ordinance aimed at identifying or protecting historic resources and places, Mr. Hettrick initiated his own preservation efforts privately to preserve Arcadia's history. His efforts resulted in the creation of his own Society Committee whose mission is to preserve Arcadia's historic richness. Under the theme, "History Lives Here", the Committee has dedicated nine historical markers in the City to show the significance of the structure or place that still exists or was once there.



Scott and his wife, Betty Hettrick.

He has also been a community leader on many fronts, including his involvement in the successful approval of the funding for the Metro Gold Line Foothill extension in the San Gabriel Valley. He served as a volunteer member for two-years on the General Plan Advisory Committee assisting the City staff/consultant team in developing a progressive and innovative General Plan. Using his special expertise as a professional journalist, he developed and currently publishes an e-newsletter and website known as Arcadia's Best. He has used his passion to build community consensus and advance individual planning efforts.

APA California found that "Mr. Hettrick is a passionate advocate for his community through his participation in the General Plan update, his newsletter, promotion of transit services and work on historic preservation. He is a role model and a leader for all community members who would like to effect change in their community." The Los Angeles Section admires Scott's involvement in a wide array of issues as well as his rare ability to rally the community and bring people together for a common cause.

We applaud Mr. Hettrick for his outstanding contribution he has made to the community and to planning.

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Year with No Winter: A Volunteer Planner's Experience in the Developing World

Part 3 of a 3 Part Series

By Mark G. Stephens, AICP

This article concludes a three-part series. Part 1, <http://www.calapa.org/attachments/contentmanagers/63/CalPlannerSpring2012.pdf>, was published in the Spring issue of Cal Planner. It explained how the author learned about and pursued a volunteer posting as a planner in Zambia through Cuso International and Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), and presented an overview of the country and its people. Part 2, <http://www.calapa.org/attachments/contentmanagers/92/NEWCALPlannerSummer2012.pdf>, was published in the Summer issue and described planning in Zambia, integrated development planning and proposed legislation, and the author's volunteer experience with the Petauke District Council. Part 3 in this Fall issue provides observations on lessons learned and sources of additional information.

Since my return to the U.S., Zambia completed landmark national elections during September 2011 that resulted in defeat of the incumbent president, Rupiah Banda, and a prompt and largely peaceful transition to a new administration under opposition candidate Michael Sata. Parliamentary elections and local government council elections occurred at the same time, so it was a momentous time for Zambia.

Parting Thoughts

A few concluding thoughts on some of what I learned follow:

- Maximize advance interaction involving the people with whom you expect to be working with. The clearer the scope of work and mutual expectations, the better. At the same time, always be prepared for the unexpected and ready to adapt to changing circumstances and direction.
- Six months sounds like a long time, but flies by in a new environment. Such a “short-term” placement poses significant challenges in making lasting changes. Plan accordingly!
- Returned volunteers and those currently working are great sources of information and insights. A number of active volunteers maintain blogs.
- Individual experiences are extremely varied, even through the same organization or in the same locale.
- Regarding health and safety, many fret over diet, sanitation, disease, noxious insects, venomous snakes, crime and political instability. These are important considerations (although the only snake I encountered was a small dead one along a supermarket aisle in Lusaka), but I've generally found that the greatest safety risk in working overseas not afforded due consideration involves driving. In Zambia, for instance, vehicles are often poorly maintained, seat belts may not be available, tires are usually recaps, roads are frequently hazardous, bicyclists and pedestrians are usually given short shrift,



From left, Dulani Phiri (District Planning Officer), David Dawson (fellow VSO volunteer), Mark Stephens (the author), Betram Daka (Director of the Works Department), Kelvin Chabulembwe (Senior Planner, Ministry of Local Government and Housing), and Lena Preuss (Geographic Information System Advisor, German Development Service), in Chipata, the Eastern Province capital.

and people frequently stand up in the back of trucks. Returning from a trip to South Luangwa National Park, our group experienced two flat tires, one of which was a blowout at highway speed. Fortunately, the driver was able to maintain control of the vehicle and prevent an accident. Be cautious!

- Plan ahead in case you do need medical assistance, and seek it out if you have problems. I was reluctant to pursue assistance when health issues arose near the end of my placement, and that reluctance only made things worse, which resulted in not tying up some aspects of my assignment as well as I had hoped.
- If you've had an inkling to work overseas, pursue it! The needs are enormous. While fraught with challenges, the potential rewards are great!

More Information

The AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (<http://www.planning.org/ethics/ethicscode.htm>) Section 3j states “We shall contribute time and effort to groups lacking in adequate planning resources and to voluntary professional activities.” National resources for AICP

Year with No Winter: A Volunteer Planner's Experience in the Developing World

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Dutch volunteer Ity Hogeveen (on the left) and neighbors enjoying an impromptu jump rope session in front of our house in Petauke. Photo by Mark G. Stephens, AICP



Scene from South Luangwa National Park, generally acknowledged as one of Africa's foremost wildlife reserves and located within a day's drive of Petauke (weather and road conditions permitting). Photo by Mark G. Stephens, AICP

members to contribute in voluntary activities are compiled on the Community Assistance link on the AICP section of the APA web site at <http://www.planning.org/communityassistance/index.htm>; where several programs are summarized. The AICP Community Planning Assistance Team program (<http://www.planning.org/communityassistance/teams/>) provides select volunteer opportunities to serve disadvantaged communities and the AICP Community Planning Workshop provides AICP members opportunities for a day of professional volunteering at our National Conferences. APA and AICP international projects and volunteer opportunities are listed on the Global Planners Network Exchange <http://www.planning.org/international/gpnx/> and the APA jobs search page <http://www.planning.org/jobs/search/>

Other resources are available at APA Divisions, Chapters and Sections. The APA International Division is an excellent resource. Members receive a monthly eNews bulletin, the quarterly Interplan newsletter, access to conference sessions, webinars and an electronic "group discussion board", and numerous other benefits.

- The Cuso International website is at: <http://www.cusointernational.org/>
- The VSO International website is at: <http://www.vsointernational.org/>
- The Peace Corps website is at: <http://www.peacecorps.gov/>

I would be happy to respond to any questions readers might have, and can be reached at msdesmtNSEA@hotmail.com.

Mark G. Stephens, AICP is a planner with over 30 years of experience in diverse settings, including stints in northern and southern California, Alaska, North Carolina, Washington, D.C., and Saudi Arabia, as well as the volunteer assignment in Zambia that is the subject of this article. He currently resides in San Diego.

I would like to thank Lance Schulte, AICP, Senior Community Planner with HDR in San Diego, and AICP Commissioner from Region VI, for his support, advice and contributions to this article, including the APA and AICP reference information.



Zambia, Map No. 3731 Rev. 4, January 2004. This map is printed with permission of the United Nations.

APA California Legislative Update - September 2012

APA California's Quick Legislative Update

By David M. Snow, AICP, Vice President Policy & Legislation, APA California and
Sande George, Legislative Advocate, APA California



The legislature ended its two-year session on Friday, August 31st. A number of gut and amended measures turned up the last few weeks of session, and a number of other bills saw extensive amendments with little time for review or chance for amendment. The bills below are the most important of the bills that were still moving in August. The Governor has until September 31st to act on any bill that managed to reach his desk.

LIFE AFTER Redevelopment

AB 345 – Future Low and Moderate Income Housing Funds (Torres)

This bill reforms, beginning January 1, 2018, how redevelopment agencies spend their Community Redevelopment Law (CRL) Low and Moderate Income Housing Funds. It would implement the reforms to the CRL in SB 450 (Lowenthal). SB 450 was vetoed by the Governor. AB 345 contains the same reforms as SB 450 but also delays those reforms for five years to avoid conflicts with the existing process of winding down redevelopment agencies, which was the Governor's concern. The reforms are designed to ensure that the newly formed Sustainable

Communities Investment Authorities under SB 375 are maximizing the use of property taxes that are collected for community redevelopment to create affordable housing. Additionally, the five year delayed implementation allows for a review of the CRL to determine what provisions should continue to apply to successor agencies and successor housing agencies and which should be phased out.

APA NEUTRAL. VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR.

AB 1585 – Ex-Redevelopment Housing Funds (Speaker Perez)

This bill was originally one of the key AB1X 26 cleanup bills. As sent to the Governor, however, it clarifies that the provisions of the Community Redevelopment Law (CRL) governing administrative and planning costs for the Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund applies to any funds retained by a housing successor agency that assume the responsibilities of a former redevelopment agency. It also appropriates \$50 million to HCD, allocating \$25 million to the Infill Incentive Grant Program and \$25 million to the Transit-Oriented Development Program created by Proposition 1C. Because there are potentially more funds that could be returned to HCD from initial awardees above the \$50 million, this bill allows any additional disencumbered funds to be deposited into the IIG and TOD Funds for appropriations.

APA SUPPORTS. SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

AB 2144 – Revitalization Financing Districts (Speaker Perez)

This bill provides the first option to redevelopment by expanding the powers of an infrastructure-financing district (IFD) and renames IFDs infrastructure and refinancing districts (IFRD). Specifically, this bill expands the types of public capital facilities or projects of communitywide significance an IRFD can finance, including economic development, affordable housing, sustainable communities, military base reuse, and brownfield cleanup and mitigation. It also reduces the vote threshold for creating an IRFD and issuing bonds from two-thirds voter approval to 55% voter approval; and provides that existing prohibitions on re-establishing IRFDs in former redevelopment areas are not applicable if no existing redevelopment obligations are impaired.

APA SUPPORTS. VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR.

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SB 1156 – Community Development and Housing Joint Powers Authority (Pro Tem Steinberg)

Another redevelopment alternative, this bill allows local governments to establish a Sustainable Communities Investment Authority to finance activities within a sustainable communities investment area pursuant to SB 375. Specifically, it would authorize the use of tax increment as well as other funding sources to finance specific SB 375 projects, including small walkable communities, transit priority areas and clean energy manufacturing, that would be part of a Sustainable Communities Strategy.

APA SUPPORTS. VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR.

CEQA MODERNIZATION

AB 890 – CEQA Exemption for Roadway Improvements (Olsen)

Supported by local governments, this bill exempts from CEQA the repair, maintenance, and minor alterations of existing roadways, provided the project is carried out by a city or county to improve public safety, does not cross a waterway, and involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. The exemption sunsets January 1, 2016. As it was last amended, this bill is consistent with the existing categorical exemption for minor work on existing roads.

APA SUPPORTS. SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

AB 1486 – CEQA Exemption for Updated Safety Systems on Cell Towers in LA (Lara)

This is the only last-minute gut-and-amend CEQA exemption measure that passed this year. Sponsored by Los Angeles, it would exempt from CEQA, until January 1, 2017, the design, site acquisition, construction, operation, or maintenance of certain elements of the LA-RICS (Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System) structures if the project would not have a substantial adverse impact on wetlands, riparian areas, or historical areas, and operation of the project would not exceed certain Federal Communications Commission exposure standards. The bill includes an urgency clause, in order to ensure that the LA-RICS is able to meet the deadlines that are required by federal grants already awarded to the LA-RICS.

APA DID NOT SUPPORT THE LAST MINUTE GUT AND AMEND, BUT DID NOT OPPOSE THE BILL ITSELF DUE TO THE LA CIRCUMSTANCES. SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SB 317 – CEQA EIR and Mitigation Alternative and Immunity from Suit (Rubio)

This measure, sponsored by the Silicon Valley Leadership Council, was the second would-be gut and amend CEQA measure that was circulated the last two weeks of session. The SB 317 language was included in a list of potential CEQA changes sponsored by the CEQA Working Group, an ad hoc group including business and building interests among others. The concept of the SB 317 amendments was to allow mitigation currently required under a very long list of existing state and federal laws to be considered sufficient mitigation under CEQA, and eliminate lawsuits for projects using this alternative mitigation option. APA met with the author's staff to discuss concerns with the bill. After over 30 Democrats asked Senator Steinberg to avoid another round of last minute CEQA changes, preferring a more thoughtful process with adequate hearings and comments from interested parties, Senator Steinberg and Senator Rubio announced that no late CEQA measures would be moving in favor of a series of hearings on CEQA modernization this fall. As a result, the CEQA amendments never were amended into SB 317.

DEAD.

SB 984/AB 1570 – Concurrent Preparation of Record (Simitian/Feuer/Perea)

These bills would have required the lead agency, at the request of a project applicant, to prepare a record of proceedings concurrently with the preparation and certification of an EIR. APA was part of a working group that amended SB 984 to address a number of issues of concern to local jurisdictions. These two measures for various reasons were not reconciled, so neither bill passed.

APA SUPPORTED SB 984. DEAD.

SB 972 – CEQA Notice (Simitian)

This bill was to have been the vehicle for APA's ECAT CEQA streamlining recommendations to reduce late comments. Unfortunately, the working group of interested parties that was working on this measure could not agree on language to address late hits. As a result, the bill only addresses a few notification changes. Specifically, it adds a public agency that has filed a written request for notice of a scoping meeting to the list of entities that a lead agency must notify of such a meeting and requires a notice of preparation of an environmental impact report be provided by the State Clearinghouse to any legislator in whose district the project has an environmental impact, if the legislator requests the notice and the clearinghouse has received it.

APA IS NEUTRAL ON THE FINAL VERSION OF THE BILL. SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

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DISASTER AND RESOURCE PLANNING

SB 455 – State Review and Approval of Local Timberland Conversion Permits and Ordinances (Pavley)

This bill would have set up a state timberland conversion process to ensure that the state's timberland conversion requirements and critical mitigation criteria are met. Although APA agrees with that goal, the bill included a number of requirements and definitions that would have interfered with local timberland conversion requirements. The main concern is a provision in the bill that would have required a county to petition the state Board of Forestry to implement its own ordinance. It would have set up a new process that appeared overly-burdensome and could have left counties without the ability to continue to use existing ordinances. It appears that the intent of this subdivision is to provide a way for counties to not only assume "lead agency" status (as that term is used in CEQA) but to be the sole decision maker on conversions instead of the state board. APA suggested, if that is the case, that the bill clarify that existing ordinances may remain in effect if it contains requirements that meet or exceed state standards. As a result of APA's concerns, as well as others, the author decided to drop the bill for the year and work on amendments over the fall.

APA SUPPORTS IF AMENDED. DEAD.

SB 1241 – Planning for State Responsibility Areas and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Safety Element (Kehoe)

APA CA assisted in drafting the language for this bill to be consistent with best planning practices in this area. It would revise the safety element requirements for state responsibility areas and very high fire hazard severity zones. It would require the safety element, prior to January 1, 2015, and thereafter upon each revision of the housing element, to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address the risk of fire in state responsibility areas and very high fire hazard severity zones. It would also require cities and counties in high fire areas to make findings related to fire safety before approving projects.

APA SUPPORTS. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

SB 1278 – Levees (Wolk)

This bill is the cleanup vehicle for the 200-Year Flood Protection planning requirements for the Central Valley signed into law in 2007 under SB 5. APA CA worked with the League of California Cities, CSAC and the Department of Water Resources to ensure that the specific areas subject to the law, as well as General Plan, zoning ordinance, and

approval/mitigation/permitting requirements on projects within high flood areas are consistent with the intent of SB 5. This bill is necessary to clarify these sections, which had been interpreted differently by DWR prior to its approval of the State Urban Level of Flood Protection Criteria.

APA SUPPORTS. SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

HOUSING ELEMENT UNITS

AB 2308 – Reducing Share of RHNA for Units Built Prior to Adoption Deadline (Torres)

This bill would authorize a city or county to reduce its share of the regional housing need by the number of units built between the start of the projection period and the deadline for adoption of the housing element. Cities and counties who make such reductions must assign the units to an income category based on actual or projected sales price, rents, or other affordability indicators.

APA SUPPORTS. SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

PARKING LIMITATIONS

AB 904 – Limitations on Parking Requirements for All Projects (Skinner)

AB 904 would have imposed a single statewide parking standard for both nonresidential and residential infill and transit-close projects on the many diverse cities and counties in California. APA California actively supports reduced parking requirements near transit. However, we also believe that any mandated reduced parking requirements need to recognize the diversity of circumstances, uses and needs in CA's communities. APA has agreed to work with the sponsors of the bill, the Infill Builders Federation, over the fall to develop a parking proposal for 2013.

DROPPED BY AUTHOR - DEAD.

PERMITTING OF COTTAGE FOOD OPERATIONS

AB 1616 – Limitations on Local Permitting of Cottage Food Operations (Gatto)

This bill, until the last two weeks of session, dealt with health and safety permitting for cottage food operations. However, August 24, 2012 the bill was amended to move the permitting restrictions in the bill from the Health and Safety Code to the Government Code. This change also moved enforcement of the bill from the local health departments to local planning departments, which raised a

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number of concerns for cities and counties. The author agreed to work with APA and others next year to address language in the bill that is unclear and inconsistent with the author's intent, and other provisions that are not feasible. Of chief concern to APA is clarification that cities and counties can specifically prohibit the point of sale of cottage food products out of the residence or residence kitchen as well as apply the generally applicable home occupations standards to address the potential traffic/commercial impacts in residential areas. In addition, sections dealing with verification of fees should be amended to clarify that the existing fee study completed to establish the permit fee pursuant to existing fee authority qualifies as verification, and the requirement that permit information be provided to the permit applicant by the city or county from unrelated public agencies needs to be deleted.

APA SUPPORTS IF AMENDED. SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

PLANNING FUNDING

AB 1532 – AB 32 Cap & Trade Funding for Planning (Speaker Perez)

This bill as it went to the Governor would allow AB 32 Cap & Trade funds to be used for a variety of projects that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including strategic planning and development of sustainable infrastructure projects including transportation and housing.

APA SUPPORTS AS AMENDED. SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

ROOFTOP SOLAR PERMIT FEE CAP

SB 1222 – Solar Energy (Leno)

This bill would place a cap on building permit fees on rooftop solar systems. It would require local agencies to justify their "reasonable costs" in a finding and ordinance for any fees that exceed \$500 plus \$15 per kilowatt for each kilowatt above 15kW for residential rooftop solar, and \$1,000 for commercial rooftop systems up to 50kW plus \$7 per kilowatt for each kilowatt between 51kW and 250kW, plus \$5 per kilowatt for each kilowatt above 250kW. The bill defines "administrative costs" for purposes of the finding and ordinance to mean the costs incurred in connection with the review, approval, and issuance of the permit, and the hourly site inspection and follow-up costs, and may also include an amortization of the costs incurred in connection with producing the written finding and adopting an

ordinance or resolution. Sponsored by various solar manufacturers, the bill is designed to reduce what manufacturers (and many legislators) consider excessive permit review and fees that keep homeowners and commercial facilities from moving to rooftop solar, in spite of the fact that the fees have been through the normal fee permitting studies. The bill as sent to the Governor will most likely allow local governments to recoup their normal costs (the original version of the bill would have capped the fees at \$300). However, APA opposes the precedence of legislation placing an arbitrary cap on permit fees for specific types of projects and instead supports the Governor's Office effort to update the building codes for common residential solar systems, as well as provide a tool kit for local governments to assist them in streamlining their solar permitting processes.

APA OPPOSES. SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

SIDEWALK REPAIRS

AB 2231 – Sidewalk Repairs (Fuentes)

This bill would have shifted responsibility for dangerous or inoperable sidewalks from adjacent property owners to local agencies and prohibited local agencies from imposing assessments on adjacent property owners for sidewalk repairs, including assessments imposed pursuant to Mello Roos and other infrastructure financing districts. This bill was amended several times, but was unable to garner the votes to pass the Legislature.

APA OFFERED AMENDMENTS, BUT THE BILL WAS HELD IN THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. DEAD.

For an up-to-date list of all bills anytime, log on to the APA California website at www.apacalifornia.com

Commissioner's Corner

Having Only One Foot in Planning

By Marc Yeber, Planning Commissioner Representative, APA California Board of Directors



There is little argument that our contribution as commission and board members to our respective neighborhoods is invaluable and the dedication is often commendable. Each of us takes our respective positions with much pride as we gladly embrace the role as stewards for our neighborhoods. We do not take this responsibility lightly as we pour over stacks of staff report materials and aim our attention to a broad spectrum of community concerns. But are we doing enough? Are we fully engaged in the dialogs that shape our communities and chart a path to the future?

If you are reading this as a commission or board member, chances are you are already engaged beyond simply being present for your commission or board meeting. As such, I applaud your extra effort in contributing to the broader planning conversation. But there is much more you could be doing to make your decisions better reasoned and more informed. At the recent California APA State Conference in Rancho Mirage, commission and board members only represented a very small minority in attendance. Those that were in attendance took the opportunity to interact with and learn from many different planning professionals, academia and other stakeholders. There were numerous occasions for these members to share their perspectives with both private and public sector planners and observe how their decisions both benefit and impact communities. At the local level, participation in APA Section events by commission and board members is rare. Further, each Section has a position for a local Planning Commissioner Representative which generally remains vacant. Those that do volunteer, however, find the experience to be enriching and their planning knowledge broadened.

Planning and related land-use decisions cannot and should not be made in a vacuum. Your commission or board decision on a particular planning item is only a single link in a long chain of processes and one outcome in a collection of many that form our built environment. It is clear there is a disconnect between those that draft policy and those that decide on it. As a result, conversations regarding policy and planning of our neighborhoods are not as robust and cannot fully be evaluated without a more representative participation. A

balanced land-use policy discussion not only requires the input from professionals who make recommendations, but also the suggestions from decision makers who adopt them. This dialog needs to take place regularly out from behind the dais and beyond the public hearing.

With that said, I have two challenges. **To my fellow APA commission & board members**, join the conversation. The very nature of your role places you in the position of *citizen planner* where planning is viewed through the lens of a particular set of community values. Initiate dialog with staff on the role you play in your community and the expectations you have in making decisions. Take advantage of the educational resources and interaction opportunities offered by the APA National, California and local Sections. **To my fellow APA members who are public sector planners**, encourage your commissions and boards to participate in these various APA sponsored informational sessions and related activities. If they are not members, support their participation by getting your local agency to enroll them under the commission and board membership (*offered at a significantly reduced rate*). By doing this, you send a message that their civic involvement is highly valued and important to the process.

In accepting these challenges, I am convinced that not only will the conversations be more comprehensive and better informed, but meetings will also become more coherent and less prone to veering off course. Such actions would achieve efficient and orderly public hearings as well as making better use of limited agency staff resources. By providing foundation for commission and board members to have both feet solidly planted within the planning process, local land-use policy has the potential to be more in concert with its respective community values and expectations.