



CALIFORNIA PLANNER



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

Newsletter of the American Planning Association California Chapter



APA California Awards 2010

The 2010 APA California Awards Lunch Ceremony was held on November 2nd as part of the APA state conference at the La Costa Resort in Carlsbad. The APA California Awards Program recognizes and celebrates great planning work occurring throughout California. The purpose of the Awards Program is to encourage quality in planning and increase the public's awareness of the planning profession through acknowledging outstanding achievements in the planning field. The Awards Program honors innovative plans and projects as well as distinguished planners, planning advocates and students. Congratulations to this year's winners!



Awards Video will be available in December on the APACA Website.

Award of Excellence

Comprehensive Planning Award for a Large Jurisdiction

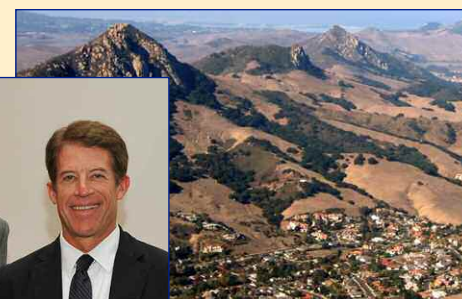
Strategic Growth Principles, Policies and Implementing Strategies

County of San Luis Obispo, Department of Planning and Building

San Luis Obispo County's unincorporated communities and rural areas have grown in a manner that, if not changed, could diminish the future quality of life or economic health. In response to these concerns, the County adopted a new direction for future planning by developing the Strategic Growth Principles, Policies and Implementing Strategies to create more affordable, efficient and sustainable communities and rural areas. Serving as the new heart of the General Plan, these landmark principles, policies and strategies will guide planning that will sustain resources, avoid sprawl and environmental impacts, and provide more housing and transportation choices.

Contact: James Lopes, AICP, County of San Luis Obispo: 805-781-5975

http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/General_Plan__Ordinances_and_Elements/Plans_in_Process_and_Draft_Plans/stratgrowth.htm



Award of Merit

Comprehensive Planning Award for a Large Jurisdiction

The Ontario Plan

City of Ontario with The Planning Center; Al Bell Consulting;
Facet Decision Systems; Kimley-Horn & Associates;
Robert Charles Lesser & Co.; Project for Public Spaces

The Ontario Plan is an innovative General Plan that provides a framework for sustained, comprehensive leadership in building the Ontario community. The dynamic web-based format allows for a rich integration of information. It places long-term information such as visions, goals and policies alongside short-term information such as community news and implementation to provide a richer context for those less familiar with General Plan content. The Ontario Plan also takes a unique business-plan approach to long range planning and contains high-level goals and policies to guide the governance of the City through time and succession. The Ontario Plan also addresses quality of life issues such as education, culture, and health that are not typically included in a General Plan, but are critical to achieving the city's vision.

Contact: Jerry Blum, City of Ontario: 909-395-2199, <http://www.ontarioplan.org/>



November/December 2010

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go! [APA California Membership Information](#)

go! [California Planner Information](#)

go! www.apacalifornia.com

APA California Awards 2010

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Award of Excellence

Comprehensive Planning Award for a Small Jurisdiction

The City of Santa Monica Land Use and Circulation Element

City of Santa Monica, Planning and Community Development Department;
The Phipps Group; Nelson/Nygaard Associates; and The Odermatt Group

Through strong, integrated land use and circulation policies, effective tools, and innovative programs, Santa Monica's Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) will guide the City of Santa Monica to achieve its vision to become a truly sustainable city. A significant innovation of the LUCE is the requirement that land use and transportation policy be linked and mutually supportive. The LUCE focuses new development along the City's transit-rich boulevards and in new districts created around the future Expo Light Rail line. Most importantly, the LUCE achieves a goal of No Net New Evening Peak Period Vehicle Trips. Developed through an inclusive and extensive collaboration effort between the City staff and the entire Santa Monica community, the LUCE is a major, comprehensive policy step, and a model for cities wanting to advance goals for a walkable, livable and sustainable community.

Contact: Elizabeth Bar-El, AICP, City of Santa Monica: 310-458-8341

<http://www.shapethefuture2025.net/>



Award of Excellence Planning Project Award

Los Rios Park

City of San Juan Capistrano; David Volz Design;
Environmental Construction Inc.; Barbara Butler Artist-BUILDER; and MIG Inc.

The challenge presented by the Los Rios Park project was to create public park space that would meet the recreation and open space needs of the surrounding community including the residents of the Los Rios National Register Historic District, visitors, and adjoining affordable housing neighborhoods. Los Rios Park accomplishes these goals in many ways, by creating new recreational opportunities for the many families with small children who live adjacent to the park that is integrated into the historic area in a compatible and complimentary manner. The park utilized non-traditional building approaches such as recycled materials, innovative designs, native plants and furnishings that are functional and yet embody the historic image of the Los Rios District.

Contact: Gary Vasquez, David Volz Design: 714-641-1300 and Grant Taylor, City of San Juan Capistrano: 949-234-4410, <http://www.sanjuancapistrano.org/>



Award of Excellence Focused Issue Planning Award

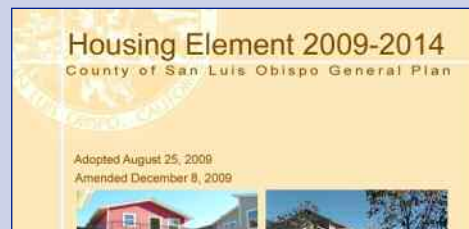
County of San Luis Obispo Housing Element Update, 2009-2014

County of San Luis Obispo, Department of Planning and Building

The County of San Luis Obispo Housing Element describes how the County will advance affordable housing opportunities through innovative programs such as smart growth strategies. Going beyond State requirements, the project involved extensive community outreach, and is crafted as thoughtfully designed, user-friendly tool that can be used by members of the public, developers and County staff to address housing needs and also promote good planning principles. The quality of the Housing Element is recognized by the State Department of Housing and Community Development as a model document for other communities to emulate.

Contact: Chuck Stevenson, AICP, County of San Luis Obispo: 805-781-5197

http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/Housing_and_Economic_Development/housingelement.htm



APA California Awards 2010

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Award of Merit **Focused Issue Planning Award** ***Trail Planning for California Communities***

Julie Bondurant, AICP, Senior Park Planner and Jim Townsend, Trails Development Program Manager, East Bay Regional Park District; Laura Thompson, Manager, San Francisco Bay Trail Project; Judith H. Malamut, Principal, LSA Associates, Inc; Patrick Tormay Miller and Jane Elizabeth Miller, Partners, 2M Associates; Richard Taylor, Partner and Winter King, Associate, Shute Mihaly & Weinberger LLP; Michelle DeRobertis, Bicycle Program Manager, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority; Joe LaClair, Chief Planning Officer, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission; Bill Long, Trail Advocate, Marin County Park and Open Space Trust, Marin Open Space Trust

The publication *Trail Planning for California Communities* fills a void in trail planning literature by giving planning professionals the first comprehensive resource under one cover that provides essential guidance on creating and managing trails in California. Using tables, figures and photographs to reinforce each topic area, *Trail Planning for California Communities*, clearly outlines the trail planning process and showcases best management practices for planners addressing real trail projects. The book accomplishes this in an accurate, easy to understand format that allows planning practitioners to apply these guidelines to planning, constructing and maintaining trails for a wide range of land use types.

Contact: Judith Malamut, AICP, LSA Associates: 510-540-7331 and Julie Bondurant, AICP, East Bay Regional Park District: 510-544-2323

Award of Excellence **Best Practices Award**

City of Santa Clarita Community Character and Design Guidelines

City of Santa Clarita and RRM Design Group

The Santa Clarita Community Character and Design Guidelines is a document that guides the creation of new development and gives clear direction for the renovation and redevelopment of built areas. The intent of the guidelines is to retain and encourage architectural variety, promote quality development, and encourage both existing and new development that is compatible in size, scale, and appearance with the character of Santa Clarita. The Community Character and Design Guidelines are based on sustainable planning and design concepts and are intended to reduce the impact of development on the surrounding environment. The document is accessible to residents and developers alike, and the graphic format is both innovative and original.

Contact: Lisa Webber, AICP, City of Santa Clarita: 661-255-4949, <http://www.santa-clarita.com/>

Award of Merit **Best Practices Award**

Envision San José 2040 Phase I and II Community Engagement Program

Envision San José 2040 Team and the City of San José Department of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement

The Phase 1 and Phase 2 community engagement program for the Envision San José 2040 General Plan Update has been both creative and visionary. The extensive and innovative public outreach and engagement, conducted throughout the planning process, has facilitated meaningful public input, garnered public support, and significantly shaped the content and direction of the General Plan. The outreach was wide-ranging; and included workshops, tours, surveys, news releases, community meetings, lectures, and extensive uses of the internet and other online tools such as Facebook and a Wikiplanning site to gauge how the community wants San José to evolve over the next three decades.

Contact: Laurel Prevetti, City of San Jose: 408-535-7901, http://www.sanjoseca.gov/planning/gp_update/default.asp



APA California Awards 2010

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Award of Excellence Innovation in Green Community Planning Award

City of Berkeley Climate Action Plan

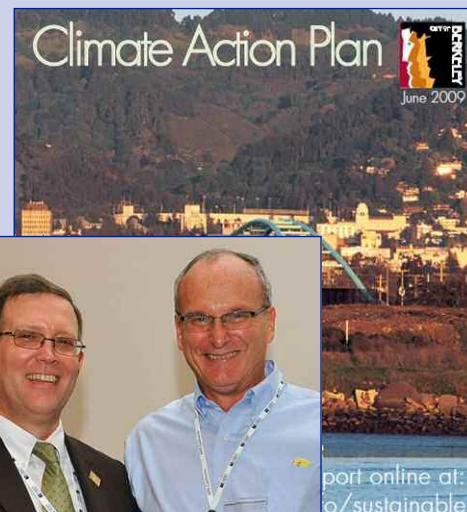
Berkeley Mayor and City Council;

Berkeley Residents and Business Community; and Berkeley City staff

Adopted by City Council in June 2009, the Berkeley Climate Action Plan is Berkeley's how-to guide to reducing community greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050. The plan identifies the main sources of local greenhouse gas emissions and recommends policies and timelines for slashing energy and waste city-wide. The Climate Action Plan is recognized for its breadth of pro-active policy recommendations and high level of community engagement from development of the plan through its ongoing implementation. The Climate Action Plan is serving as a model for local governments throughout the country that are developing their own climate plans.

Contact: Timothy Burroughs, City of Berkeley: 510-981-7437

<http://www.cityofberkeley.info/sustainable/>



Award of Merit Innovation in Green Community Planning Award

City of Pasadena's Green City Indicators Report

City of Pasadena, Planning Department

In 2006, the City of Pasadena adopted a Green City Action Plan following the framework of the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords which recognizes the environmental challenges and opportunities facing urban areas across the globe. Acting as a comprehensive blueprint, the Pasadena Green City Action Plan contains 70 initiatives for the City including actions to incorporate sustainability in long range planning and transportation documents. An innovative green planning assessment and diagnostic tool, the Green City Indicators Report assists the City in determining where progress is being made or lacking in achieving the sustainability goals of the Green City Action Plan and provides City officials with essential information to guide policies and solutions to further advance the City's sustainability efforts.

Contact: Ursula Schmidt, City of Pasadena: 626-744-6729, <http://www.cityofpasadena.net/greencity/>



Award of Excellence Grassroots Initiative Award

El Monte Community Building Initiative

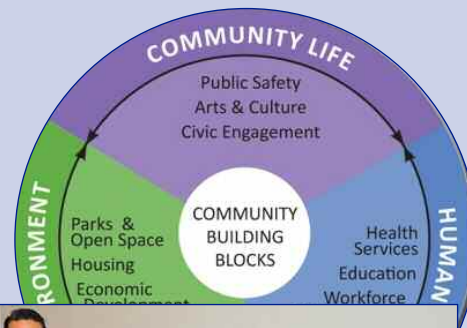
California Community Foundation; City of El Monte;
The Planning Center; and Arellano Associates

The California Community Foundation launched its multiyear Community Building Initiative in El Monte, California with the goal of improving the quality of life for the city's residents. The Community Building Initiative is a multifaceted strategy to engage El Monte residents and stakeholders in community planning, problem solving, and decision making that will lead to improvement in the physical environment, social conditions, and community life. The Community Building Initiative involved extensive community engagement in the design and implementation of neighborhood revitalization efforts. It provides a practical plan for not only for improving the physical and social environment but also to empower residents and civic leaders to solve problems.

Contact: Mark Hoffman, The Planning Center: 909-930-1380; Minh Thai, City of El Monte:

626-258-8626; and Vera de Vera, California Community Foundation: 213-413-4130

<http://www.planningcenter.com/#/services/?stage=block1>



APA California Awards 2010

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Award of Excellence Neighborhood Planning Award

The Coast Highway Vision and Strategic Plan

City of Oceanside with Torti Gallas and Partners Inc.

For most of its history, Coast Highway through the City of Oceanside has been dominated by the automobile and the land uses that cater to it. To inspire and guide reinvestment along this important thoroughfare, the Coast Highway Vision and Strategic Plan seeks to enhance the pedestrian experience on Coast Highway through a variety of innovative strategies including pedestrian-oriented street improvements, a smart growth incentive program, a transfer of development rights program, an arts, technology and environment overlay district, rationalized parking standards, and several site-specific conceptual plans and programs. Supported by carefully crafted incentives, this innovative balancing of Coast Highway's classic beach character with more sophisticated and contemporary urban elements is expected to transform the corridor into an integrated series of distinct, attractive and engaging places.

Contact: Amy Fousekis, City of Oceanside: 760-435-3534, <http://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/chv/>

Award of Excellence Education Project Award

Great Communities Collaborative

Great Communities Collaborative with TransForm; Greenbelt Alliance;
Urban Habitat; Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California;
Reconnecting America; The San Francisco Foundation;

Silicon Valley Community Foundation; and East Bay Community Foundation

The Great Communities Collaborative works to educate residents about best practices in planning for transit-oriented development and conduct outreach to make sure plans reflect community needs. The Great Communities Collaborative is a unique cooperative relationship between regional non-profit organizations, a national nonprofit, community foundations, and over a dozen local community organizations and technical assistance partners. The Great Communities Collaborative provides tools and resources to assess local community needs, educates residents of all income levels about the opportunities and benefits of locating new growth near transit, and provides technical assistance and trainings enabling residents to have a strong voice in shaping the future of their communities.

Contact: Jeff Hobson, TransForm: 510-740-3150, <http://www.greatcommunities.org/>

Award of Merit Education Project Award

SurveyLA Public Participation Program

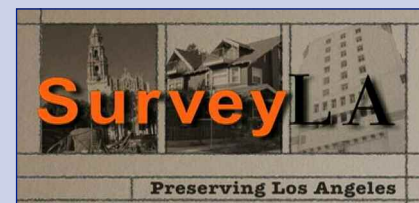
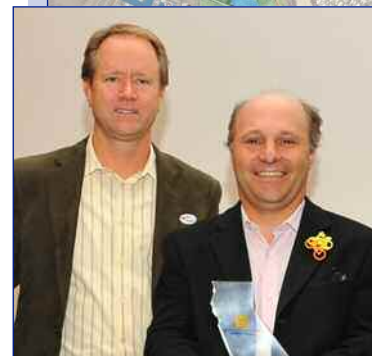
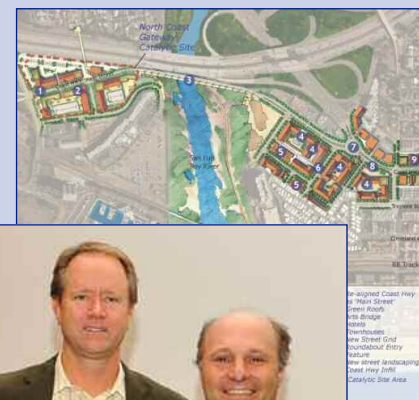
Office of Historic Resources, City of Los Angeles; Historic Resources Group;
Schaf Photo; Full Vision Productions; LA Cityview Channel 35;
and LA City Planning Graphics



Watch the "SurveyLA Public Participation Program" Video, [click here!](#)

The SurveyLA Public Participation Program is a comprehensive, integrated approach to public education and community engagement for the nation's largest local citywide historic resources survey. The survey project is a centerpiece of the City of Los Angeles' preservation planning activities. This program is designed to solicit meaningful public involvement, ensuring that views reflective of the city's multicultural heritage are incorporated throughout the survey process. The SurveyLA Public Participation Program includes several distinct but well-integrated components, including the visually compelling SurveyLA Video; multilingual brochures; a guide to public participation; SurveyLA Website; E-Newsletters; and extensive volunteer program and volunteer speakers bureau.

Contact: Ken Bernstein, AICP, City of Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources: 213-978-0195



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Award of Excellence Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner

George G. Mader, FAICP

George Mader has provided consistency and special care for the Town of Portola Valley, serving as Town Planner for the City for over 45 years. Portola Valley is a small community situated astride the San Andreas Fault with extensive areas of earth landslides. He has been instrumental in developing and applying zoning and ordinances that fit the unique and special framework of the Town. He assisted the Town in the preparation of what may have been the first slope-density regulations in the nation, which he also applied to other jurisdictions in Northern and Southern California. He also taught environmental earth sciences at Stanford University from 1970 to 2000. George has participated in many state, national, and international committees and workshops as a spokesman for land use planning to reduce risk from natural hazards. He served on the California Seismic Safety Commission and as consultant to the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization for seismic hazards reduction in the Mediterranean Region.

Contact: George Mader, FAICP, Spangle Associates: 650-324-8600



Award of Excellence Distinguished Leadership Award for an Organization **The Grand Boulevard Initiative**

San Mateo County Transit District; Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network; San Mateo City/County Association of Governments; Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority; SAMCEDA; with 19 Cities; San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties; Caltrans; ABAG; MTC; San Mateo County and Santa Clara County Building Trades Councils; Greenbelt Alliance; Committee for Green Foothills; Stanford University; Bridge Housing; First Community Housing; CHS Development Group, Inc.; Dostart Development Company, LLC; Premier Properties Management

The Grand Boulevard Initiative is a historic inter-jurisdictional collaboration to bring about regional planning through a shared vision that links transportation and land use. Nineteen cities, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, and multiple local and regional agencies have united to improve the performance, safety and aesthetics of the El Camino Real corridor between San Francisco and San Jose. The Vision of the Initiative is that "El Camino Real will achieve its full potential as a place for residents to work, live, shop and play, creating links between communities that promote walking and transit and an improved quality of life." The formation of the Grand Boulevard Initiative has provided a remarkable opportunity for numerous public and private stakeholder institutions to come together to education each other and accomplish regional change.

Contact: Corinne Goodrich, San Mateo County Transit District: 650-508-6369

<http://www.grandboulevard.net/>



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Award of Excellence Advocacy Planning Award

Alvaro Huerta

UC Berkeley Department of City and Regional Planning

UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center

The son of Mexican immigrant parents, Alvaro grew up in turbulent East Los Angeles housing projects yet managed to overcome these limiting forces to become an influential community and university activist. For the past 25 years, Alvaro has fought for the rights of marginalized, working-class Latino communities in Los Angeles and recently in the Bay Area as a PhD candidate in UC Berkeley's Department of City and Regional Planning. One of his most successful campaigns included leading an environmental justice campaign to prevent the building of a power plant in the predominantly low-income Latino community of South Gate, California.

In addition to his community activism, Alvaro has helped expand diversity within the planning profession by mentoring others who come from a similar background as his and encouraging them to pursue planning as a career. Alvaro has also constantly advocated for the consideration of race, class, and civic responsibility in his studies.

Contact: Alvaro Huerta: ahuerta@berkeley.edu

Award of Excellence Hard Won Victory Award

Sumida Gardens Apartments

The City of Goleta Redevelopment Agency and the Towbes Group, Inc.

Barriers to provide any kind of affordable housing are particularly strong in Santa Barbara County, where the City of Goleta is located, and include high development costs, limited land, a very high cost housing market, and environmental constraints associated with a coastal community. Sumida Gardens apartments represent years of collaboration by the City and the community to provide workforce and affordable housing. Taking 10 years to complete, the final project opened with 200 rental units including market rate workforce units and 34 affordable units in a beautiful and functional setting close to jobs, public transportation and recreational opportunities.

Contact: Jaime Valdez, City of Goleta: 805-961-7568

<http://www.sumidagardens.com> and <http://www.cityofgoleta.org/index.aspx?page=496>

Award of Excellence Distinguished Leadership Award for a Student Planner

Justin Meek

San José State University, Urban and Regional Planning Department

While enrolled full-time at San José State University, with an excellent academic record, Justin Meek has also provided exceptional leadership for team projects and promoted the visibility of the urban planning profession through his active participation in the American Planning Association, Urban Planning Coalition, and planning related internships. In the past two years, Justin has grown as a knowledgeable planner, respected leader, and a person on whom his fellow students can rely. He pushes the envelope of what being a planner can be—an educator, an organizer, an advocate, an innovator, a community volunteer, and a person who can reach across disciplines to synthesize new answers to complex questions.

Contact: Justin Meek: justin.meek@gmail.com



APA California Awards 2010

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Award of Merit Distinguished Leadership Award for a Student Planner

Alexis Lantz

UCLA Department of Urban Planning

Alexis Lantz, a second-year Urban Planning graduate student at UCLA, has been a pioneer in the planning field in Los Angeles during her short time as a student. Her work with her own research on bicyclists in Los Angeles, the L.A. Bike Count, and her instigation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian course at UCLA, will help planners, as well as future planners, have the knowledge and information they need to make Los Angeles and other cities more bike- and pedestrian-friendly. Alexis is also a concerned citizen who is very active in her community. She travels her streets, she attends neighborhood meetings in her Silver Lake neighborhood, and her enthusiasm encourages others to also be more engaged community members.

Contact: Alexis Lantz: alexislantz@gmail.com



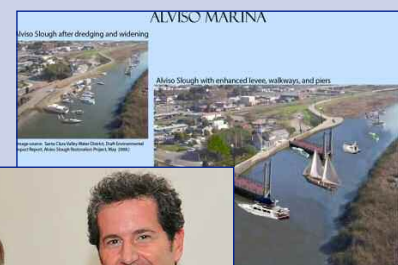
Award of Excellence Academic Award

Alviso, California: Community Assessment and Urban Design Analysis

San José State University, Urban and Regional Planning Department and Downtown College Prep School-Alviso

The Alviso, California: Community Assessment and Urban Design Analysis is the result of work completed in two graduate-level studio courses taught at San José State University. Students conducted a collaborative planning process that included a thorough community assessment and urban design analysis of Alviso, a historic village in northern San José. The resulting document was presented at two community meetings and to the staff of the San José Planning Department and was very well-received. Most notably, the students played an extremely important role as ambassadors of good planning throughout their engagement with community members, many of whom were normally reluctant to talk with City staff because of language barriers or environmental justice concerns. It is expected that Alviso residents and city staff will use the resulting document as a reference during future community planning efforts.

Contact: Richard Kos, AICP: 510-504-5064

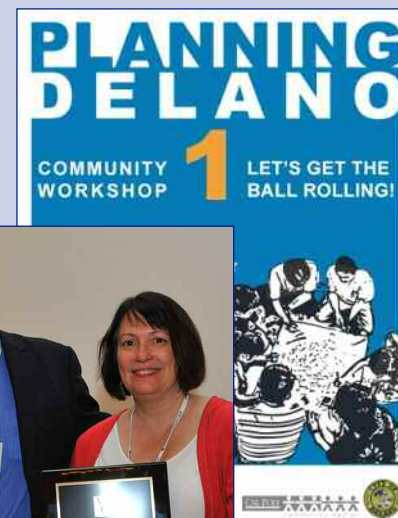


Award of Merit 2010 Academic Award **Delano Strategic Plan**

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo,
City and Regional Planning Department and the
City of Delano Community Development Department

The City of Delano is a rural, agricultural community located in the San Joaquin Valley. The City is almost three quarters Hispanic with the majority under the age of 25. The City engaged the City and Regional Planning Department at California Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo to assist in the development of a Strategic Plan for the community. To develop the Strategic Plan, the students reached out to an underserved minority population and also connected with the business community and city government. In addition to workshops, official meetings, presentations and flyers the class came up with innovative tools to elicit participation from an expanded community involving church groups, the local chapter of the United Farm Workers and organizations that promote economic justice. Extensive engagement from a variety of stakeholders resulted in the plan being embraced whole-heartedly by the city.

Contact: Keith Woodcock, City of Delano: 661-721-3340 and Kelly Main, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo: kdmmain@calpoly.edu <http://www.cityofdelano.org/>



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Award of Excellence Individual Journalist Award

Russell Clemings

Fresno Bee

A professional journalist at the Fresno Bee assigned to transportation issues, Russ Clemings has reported on the Council of Fresno County Governments transportation planning activities. He has done so in a clear and concise manner without sensationalizing or polarizing issues. Understanding the subtleties of the political process, he translates highly technical material into palatable and informative reading. Russ Clemings provides an important public service to both the Council of Fresno County Governments and the community with his unbiased and factual coverage of critical issues. Besides his high standards and commitment to accuracy, fairness, objectivity and timeliness, he has an incredible ability to research and make understandable the most complicated and involved news stories.

Contact: Russell Clemings, Fresno Bee: 559-441-6371



Award of Excellence Media Award

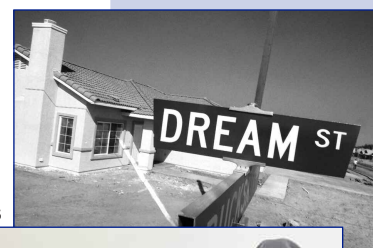
Dream Street by Douglas McCulloh

Co published by Inlandia Institute and Heyday

Dream Street by Douglas McCulloh was published by Heyday Books under the Inlandia Institute imprint in 2009. Dream Street is the story of the housing construction industry and the rise and fall of a middle class neighborhood at the center of the southern California the housing melt down. Photographer and author Douglas McCulloh won the right to name the street at a charity fundraiser. This chance event launched his obsessive haunting with a camera and tape recorder of a forty-acre strawberry field as it was transformed into a 134-home subdivision. Douglas McCulloh's work centers on the men and women who work in construction and the first-time buyers struggling to purchase a piece of the California dream.

Inlandia Institute is a lively regional center of literary activity with offices in Riverside California. It grew out of the highly acclaimed anthology Inlandia: A Literary Journey through California's Inland Empire, published by Heyday in 2006. Inlandia Institute strives to nurture the rich and ongoing literary traditions of inland southern California.

Contacts: Douglas McCulloh, Author & Photographer: 951-369-1564 & Marion Mitchell-Wilson, Inlandia Institute: 951-369-1564, <http://www.douglasmcculloh.com/index2.html> and <http://inlandia institute.org/>



Award of Merit Media Award

**MCAS Tustin "Titans of History"
Historical Mitigation Program**

RBF Consulting; City of Tustin; and Petroné Communications



Watch the "Titans of History" Video, click here!

"The Tustin Hangars: Titans of History" is a comprehensive mitigation package that documents the history and construction of the two blimp hangars at the former Marine Corps Air Station in Tustin, California. The mitigation program includes three media elements: a DVD/video of the history and construction of the hangars, a written history, and a three-dimensional exhibit, which were presented in a public forum. The hangars were built early in World War II to house manned blimps or, in Navy terminology, lighter-than-air non-rigid airships. The mammoth Tustin hangars are the largest wooden structures in the world. "The Tustin Hangars: Titans of History" examines the origin and evolution of the hangars, the support buildings around them and the air station itself, from inception to the present. The three media pieces work together to inform and educate the public and local historians about the unique challenges and elements of the hangars' history, and to meet the requirement of historical mitigation in a meaningful way.

Contacts: Margit Allen, RBF Consulting: 949-855-3651; Chris Shingleton, City of Tustin: 714-573-3107; and Peter Buffa, Petroné Communications: 949-855-5749.



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APA California 2010 Awards Jury



(left to right)

Omar Dadabhoy, City of Stanton
Ken Gutierrez, AICP, City of Riverside
Yara L. Fisher, AICP, AECOM
Alexander Amoroso, AICP City of Berkeley
Adrienne Greve, PhD, California Polytechnic
State University, San Luis Obispo
(not pictured)

APA California



Vice President for
Administration
Virginia M. Viado (left)

APA California State
Award Coordinator,
Jessie Barkley (right)

Special thanks to URS for Producing the 2010 Awards Show

2010 Planner Emeritus Network Honor Awards

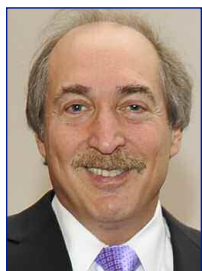
Each year the Planner Emeritus Network selects several long tenured planners who have made significant and substantial contributions to the profession during their careers to receive a PEN Honor Award. The award recognizes, not only the accomplishments of the recipients in their professional careers, but also their furtherance of the profession through support of APA California and other planning organizations, as well as community service.



Don Cotton, AICP

For more than 50 years, Don Cotton has been actively engaged in the practice of professional planning in public agencies, private consulting firms, and as a teacher and mentor. For more than half of that time, he was managing principal and owner of a planning consulting business which completed more than 1,200 planning, housing and environmental projects. Don has set the standard for planning excellence with his community planning projects including general plans, specific plans, redevelopment plans, housing plans and environmental documentation.

In addition to his many years of outstanding professional practice, he has also served as: Mayor and City Councilmember for the City of San Marino; an Adjunct Professor, Advisory Board member and Councilor for the School of Policy and Planning Development at USC; APA California Chapter Board member; President of the Planner Emeritus Network; member of the APA California Legislative Committee; and member of the APA California History Committee. Don has also been a mentor to many urban and environmental planners during his illustrious career, and has supported scholarship programs for planning students through personal and company contributions to USC, UCLA, Cal Poly Pomona, SDSU and others.



Daniel Iacofano, Ph.D., FAICP, FASLA

Daniel Iacofano represents the highest professional ideals and ethics of the planning profession and has been most successful in blending his expertise in urban planning, environmental management and landscape architecture. He has an illustrious career that also includes recognition as a Fellow in the American Institute of Certified Planners and he was also inducted as a Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects in 2009.

Although his expertise and past projects are far-reaching, he is widely recognized in the planning profession for his innovative and pioneering work in designing effective public participatory processes. His signature public involvement and meeting facilitation techniques, particularly graphic documentation tools, are used extensively by many planning firms, professionals and public agencies. He has consulted and lectured throughout the United States, Europe and Japan, and has pioneered innovative techniques for inter-agency

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DESIGN, COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

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BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94709



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landscape architecture | public participation | smart growth | GIS



Planning & Design

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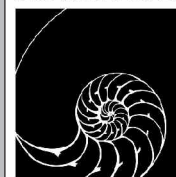
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APA California Awards 2010

Continued from page 10

collaboration and consensus building. His work has been recognized by the National League of Cities, the International Downtown Association, the American Planning Association, and the American Society of Landscape Architects. Through his numerous projects, Daniel has elevated the public perception of the planning profession and has trained a generation of planners on the importance of participatory government.

Naphtali Knox, FAICP

Over the past half century, Naphtali Knox has used his knowledge and experience to improve the way comprehensive planning is conducted and the way planning goals are achieved. He has been instrumental in generating new ideas and creating important policies for the field of planning that continue to be used today. During his long and productive career, Naphtali has worked tirelessly in the public sector, the private sector, and in academia. His public sector experience includes positions with the Air Force Academy Construction Agency, the City of Petaluma, the University of California, and the City of Palo Alto. His private sector experience includes forming and operating the firm of Naphtali H. Knox & Associates, providing planning services to both private sector and public agency clients.

Naphtali has served in a variety of leadership positions within APA, its predecessor organization, AIP and other community organizations. For AIP, he served as Secretary-Treasurer of the California Chapter and as a member of the National Board of Examiners. Naphtali served APA as both a member and President of the California Planning Roundtable. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara County Association of Planning Officers and as Chair of the Bay Area Planning Directors Association.



Joan Lamphier

Joan Lamphier has practiced planning in the San Francisco Bay area for forty years. Throughout her career, she has contributed to local planning by providing caring, thoughtful and insightful analysis and expertise for local projects. She served as a role model and mentor to women in the field of planning at a time when there were few such models. She has provided environmental analysis and entitlement processing for a large number of projects in the San Francisco Bay area, from corporate office campuses, to oil refinery upgrades, to laying 56 miles of electric cable through the San

Francisco Bay.

In all of her work she strives for workable, well-conceived mitigation measures and conditions. For contentious projects, she works quietly to engage all parties to understand their concerns and find common ground and creative solutions where possible. Joan has served and continues to serve on the Boards for community-based organizations, including those addressing environmental concerns. She participates in the annual bird counts at the Bolinas Lagoon, contributing to the data about our physical environment. She has supported the education of new planners through her active involvement with the College of Environmental Design at UC Berkeley, including participating in the mentor program and endowing a scholarship.



Paul Sedway, FAICP

Paul Sedway is truly a visionary in the planning world and has been recognized by Bureau of Government Research, Business of New Orleans Council and River Region as "one of the nation's foremost planning experts." For example, one of his recent planning quotes readily found on the internet relates to climate change - "It is patently absurd to address greenhouse gas emissions using the case-by-case approach institutionalized by CEQA. Every project no matter how small, and every activity, contributes greenhouse gases. Rather, the government should use its resources to undertake adequate research, establish reasonable and sound benchmarks, and impose whatever restrictions, and other actions, are needed."

Continued on page 12



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APA California Awards 2010

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Now semi-retired, his firm had a national practice with offices in several states around the country. He has worked on, too numerous to list, plans and planning documents ranging from entire states to single city blocks. Over his extensive planning career, he has served as a mentor to many now-seasoned planners in their own right, who have gone on to accomplish great things as well, including Deana Belzer, Tom Jacobson, Fred Etzel and others. Mr. Sedway has contributed countless hours in service to AIP, APA, the Private Practice Division of APA, APA California, and other related planning organizations such as SPUR and ULI.



Brian Smith, AICP

Brian Smith has over 33 years experience as a land use and environmental planner in California. Brian has dedicated his life to planning—both to the work of planning and to the advancement of the profession. His major accomplishments in serving a wide variety of public agencies are complemented by his active involvement in building and serving professional organizations at state and section levels. For APACA, he has served as Central Section Director and Vice President for Administration, as well as Conference Chair for our state conferences in Modesto, Bakersfield and Yosemite. Brian

also served on the Board of Directors of the California Planning Foundation and is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Planner Emeritus Network.

Beyond APA, he has served in a variety of positions within the California Association of Environmental Professionals and the National Association of Environmental Professionals. Brian's strengths include project implementation and legal defensibility of controversial planning documents. As such, he was the Project Manager for comprehensive General Plan updates for Modesto and Escondido. He also has been a pioneer in the use of the Master EIR and served as Project Manager for Fresno and Modesto General Plan Master EIRs. More recently, Brian served as Project Manager for the San Bernardino County General Plan EIR.



Janet Fairbanks, AICP (Posthumous Award)

For over 25 years, Janet Fairbanks distinguished herself as an urban planner. While participating on locally important and short-term efforts in her early years, it became clear that Janet's strength was in her long term vision and ability to evaluate complex matters and develop beneficial solutions. She did this with obvious humanity and humor. Always an activist planner, Janet helped people take on the hard issues of integrating economic vitality and ecological integrity. She mobilized people by taking them out to see the devastating poverty in the Tijuana colonias and the environmental

degradation in the Tijuana estuary. Working together with local community members, she took action to preserve delicate ecosystems and develop healthy communities. Collaborating with Andrea Lawrence, a Sierra activist, Janet played an essential role in building the funds and community support to establish the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers, a planning forum to identify and address key challenges confronting the Eastern Sierra Nevada.

During her time at the City of San Diego, Janet worked on the City's first Local Coastal Program and its Growth Management Program. She also helped implement the City's early open-space planning and led the effort to develop the framework for the City's North City Future Urbanizing Area. Moving onto SANDAG in 1992 until her retirement in 2006 Janet worked as a senior regional planner, authoring the Healthy Environment section of SANDAG's first Regional Comprehensive Plan; serving as the first project manager for SANDAG's Environmental Mitigation Program; and representing SANDAG on the Natural Communities Conservation Program. In addition to APA leadership roles both in the local section and with the California Planning Roundtable, she was a mentor to new staff and many have indicated Janet was instrumental in their early careers through mentoring, teaching, and advising them.



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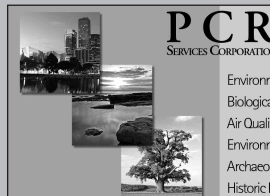


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President's Message

By Kurt Christiansen, AICP, President



It was an honor and a privilege serving as the APA California Chapter President for the past two years. While it was not the Presidency I had hoped for, it was still a great experience. Goals and ideas I had set for myself and the Chapter had to be set aside in order to address the impacts that the worse economic recession since the Great Depression had on Planning and Planners. Instead of growth and new programs, we shifted gears to support and maintain our membership.

Never did I expect to receive emails from friends and colleagues telling me of furloughs and lay-offs. The last thing I thought I would do was testify before an Assembly Committee on the importance of the Governors office of Planning and Research, as the State Planning Agency. Who would have thought that the State's top planning agency might be eliminated and its functions spread among many other departments!!

Despite lay-offs, furloughs, and pay reductions, we as an organization, provided low/no cost training, financial assistance for dues and conferences, and career and job skills training. While our membership did decrease, it was not as dramatic as it could have been. The Chapter Board's goal was to maintain and enhance member services without a cost to the membership. The Board made some tough decisions, cutting programs and projects which we deemed as not essential at this time. Our mantra was "What services do our members value the most and how can we improve these services." This was our plan and I think we succeeded.

As I close out the end of my term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who served with me during 2009 and 2010. These individuals collectively make this organization function. We would not have been successful without these dedicated people who volunteer countless hours. While to numerous to name, they are APA California.

Another group I would like to thank is the individuals who are not members but serve as staff to make the day to day operations run smoothly. Without these dedicated individuals the organization would dramatically be different, and the volunteer officers of the organization would need to double the amount of time they put in to carry out the goals and objectives of the organization.

My thanks and extreme gratitude go out to:

Dorina Blythe, *Cal Planner & Annual Chapter Conference* - GranDesigns

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Laura Murphy, *Stefan/George Associates*

Francine Farrell, *Stefan/George Associates*

Tom Stefan, *Director of Administration* - Stefan/George Associates

Sande George, *Executive Director/Lobbyist* - Stefan/George Associates

I would not have survived my term as president if it were not for these amazing people supporting me every step of the way.

I have one more year to serve on the State Board, as your past President. I look forward to supporting your new APA California Chapter President Kevin Keller. With the economy beginning to recover, he will do an amazing job leading the organization forward.

I look forward to my next chapter in APA. In addition to serving as Past President, I will serve as one of the chairs of the Host Committee, for the 2012 APA National Conference, to be held in Los Angeles. I also learned recently that I have been elected to serve on the Executive Committee as the National APA Chapter Presidents Council. This organization will do great things for the future of the Planning Profession and I am proud to be part of the leadership that will make these things happen.

Thank you for a great two years.



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APA California Legislative Update End of Session and Beginning of New Budget

By Sande George, Stefan/George Associates, APA Lobbyist and Executive Director



The final day of the 2010 legislative session ended on August 31st and all bills that passed out of their respective houses have now been signed or vetoed by the Governor. One thing missing at the end of session was a budget.

After a record 100 days beyond the deadline, legislators were called back into session and finally sent a budget to the Governor on October 8, 2010 after spending 17 plus hours to reach an agreement. The \$87.5 billion spending plan relies on assumptions of revenues from taxpayers and the federal government, as well as reductions to state worker pay,

prisons, and social services. The budget agreement includes several changes affecting businesses' tax liability. It also places a measure on the 2012 primary election ballot that would increase the size of the state's reserve and impose a spending cap largely based on Proposition 1A of 2009.

Local governments did not escape budget "fixes". There is also a provision to fund courts from a previously authorized shift from redevelopment agencies, a one-time shift of \$350 million, as well as another \$762 million loan from the Highway Users Tax Account.

On the plus side, the budget does include a complicated measure that allows cities, counties and special districts to receive up to \$1 billion for their outstanding mandate reimbursement claims by authorizing a joint powers authority to issue ten-year "local mandate claim receivables". These would be backed by the state's repayment obligation. This new process allows the authority to use the proceeds to pay local agencies for their outstanding mandate claims. According to the Legislative Analyst, the state would pay interest on the receivables at a rate of 2 percent per year. Local agencies would pay any additional interest or debt-issuance costs.

The budget also included a trailer bill designed to assist counties trying to cope with the loss of Williamson Act subventions from the state, allowing them some breathing room to retain as much Williamson Act properties as possible until the state once again fully funds the program. Until January 1, 2015, the budget now authorizes a county, in any fiscal year in which payments authorized for reimbursement to a county for lost revenue are less than 1/2 of the participating county's actual foregone general fund property tax revenue, to revise the term for newly renewed and new contracts and require the assessor to value the property based on the revised contract term. The bill would provide that a landowner may choose to non-renew and begin the cancellation process and would also provide that any increased revenues generated by properties under a new contract must be paid to the county. It also provides \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to the Controller for the 2010-11 fiscal year to make subvention payments to counties. It also allows the contract term to be extended up to three years as necessary to restore the contract to its full length if increased revenue is not realized by the county, establishes that the additional assessed value due to the revised contract is 10 percent of the difference between the restricted value under the original contract and the adjusted base year value, and provides that landowners may choose to not renew their contract at any time, but a landowner who withdraws prior to the effective date will be subject to term modification and additional assessed value.

The Governor did veto \$962 million in spending, which allowed him to increase the budget reserve fund from \$375 million to \$1.3 billion. The bad news: The Legislative Analyst estimates that "well over two-thirds of the Legislature's 2010-11 budget solutions are one-time or temporary in nature. This means that California will continue to face sizable annual budget problems in 2011-12 and beyond."

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Legislative Update

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Below is a list of hot bills and their outcomes. APA saw a few big wins in way of vetos on problematic bills. For an up-to-date list of all bills anytime, log on to the APA California website legislation icon on the home page at www.calapa.org.

Signed/Vetoed Hot Bills

AB 602 – Feuer – Five-Year Statute of Limitations for Housing Element Challenges

AB 602 (Evans) was amended at the end of session last year to eliminate the statute of limitations for housing element challenges. Sponsored by the housing advocate organizations, it was designed to deal with the court's decision in *Urban Habitats v. City of Pleasanton* that existing law provides a 90-day statute of limitations on provisions in 65009 (d), 60 days for the local agency to respond, and one year to sue. The housing advocates believe that this decision inappropriately limits their ability to challenge housing elements and other housing policies and ordinances, even though they were allowed to proceed in this case based on alternative challenge provisions. In April, Assembly Member Evans decided not to pursue the bill.

Near the end of session, however, Assembly Member Feuer decided to pick up the bill. Although local governments and APA met several times with the author and sponsors, we were unable to come to a mutually agreeable compromise. Instead, working with the Building Industry Association, the bill was amended to allow a five-year statute of limitations on challenges to housing elements and implementing ordinances, as well as providing various exemptions for projects underway from building moratoriums mandated by the courts during a challenge.

APA, the League of Cities and CSAC had a long list of major concerns about the impact a 5-year statute of limitations could have on cities and counties just trying to get out from under a recession. Legislation in the last ten years resulted in a major expansion of housing element requirements and new remedies signed into law, offering much more opportunity for lawsuits and creating uncertainty for both local governments and developers. In addition, current law imposes enormous legal costs on local governments challenged in court, even for those agencies that win their lawsuit, or have been determined to be in compliance by HCD.

The bill did make it off the floor and to the Governor. With substantial opposition from the cities, counties, and planners, meetings with the Governor's staff requesting a veto, and a huge number of individual letters from local agencies listing specific impacts and potential costs to their jurisdiction as a result of this bill, the Governor decided to veto the measure. His veto statement is below.

I am returning Assembly Bill 602 without my signature. Local governments face numerous potential legal liabilities when land is developed. One of the protections and assurances provided to local governments in order to encourage them to move forward with land development is that there is a reasonable statute of limitations on when a legal claim can be filed. Existing law gives interested parties sufficient time to bring an action, and extending this period to five years could result in uncertainty for local governments. For this reason I cannot sign this bill. Sincerely, Arnold Schwarzenegger

The bill was vetoed by the Governor.

AB 853 – Arambula – Annexation

Position: Oppose

The bill would have required a board of supervisors, within 180 days of receiving a petition to apply for annexation to a city, or for reorganization that includes an annexation to a city, to adopt a resolution of application for an annexation if the affected territory includes disadvantaged communities. To plan for the future boundaries and service areas of the cities and special districts, a LAFCO would be required to prepare municipal service reviews and then

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Legislative Update

Continued from page 17

adopt a policy document for each sphere of influence. The bill would have also required LAFCO's to include in the municipal service reviews the location and characteristics, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies, of identified disadvantaged communities.

Although APA agrees that disadvantaged communities need planning and financial assistance, without a source of funding to assist communities with the petition costs, planning and infrastructure funding, this bill would not have resulted in assistance to these areas. The costs of the new LAFCO mandates in the bill would also have been transferred to cities and counties. The Governor's veto message is below.

I am returning Assembly Bill 853 without my signature. This bill is unnecessary, as existing law adequately requires Local Agency Formation Commissions to consider any relevant social and economic communities of interest. Furthermore, residents already have the ability to seek annexation or establish a new city with the appropriate balance of input from the city, county, and residents affected, as well as the fiscal considerations. For these reasons I am unable to sign this bill. Sincerely, Arnold Schwarzenegger

The bill was vetoed by the Governor

SB 194 – Florez– Community Equity Investment Act Funding for Disadvantaged Communities

Position: Watch

This bill would have enacted the Community Equity Investment Act of 2010. The bill would have specified how funds received pursuant to the federal State Community Development Block Grant Program are expended at the local government level and would have imposed various requirements on a local government in receipt of those funds that would, among other things, ensure the representation and participation of citizens of disadvantaged unincorporated communities.

The Governor's veto message is below.

I am returning Senate Bill 194 without my signature. This bill would establish, to the extent permitted by federal law, requirements governing the use of a citizen advisory committee (CAC) by a local government that chooses to use a CAC in the course of preparing plans for the expenditure of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds received directly from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This bill is unnecessary. The federal CDBG regulations already mandate a public hearing with significant outreach elements as part of grant recipients' planning processes; further, imposing a state requirement on a federal program would be inappropriate and in fact may not be permitted by federal law and regulations. For this reason I am unable to sign this bill. Sincerely, Arnold Schwarzenegger

The bill was vetoed by the Governor

SB 812 – Ashburn– Housing Element Requirements: Needs Analysis for the Developmentally Disabled

Position: Oppose

SB 812 requires local governments to include in the special housing needs analysis, needs of individuals with a developmental disability within the community. Although housing for the developmentally disabled is an issue, it is unclear how city and county housing elements are capable of addressing those needs. (Advice on implementing this bill will need to be provided through HCD or follow-up legislation.) The bill will also establish a precedent for other groups with special needs to propose specific housing-needs analysis without evidence that their needs for housing differs significantly from other special-needs populations. Unfortunately, this bill was signed by the Governor.

The bill was signed into law by the Governor

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Legislative Update

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SB 1207– KEHOE – Safety Element: Fire Planning Strategies for High Fire Zones

Position: Support

This bill was very similar to SB 505, which was supported by APA California and vetoed by the Governor last year. SB 1207 would have expanded the required contents of safety elements that cover state responsibility area land and very high fire hazard severity zones. APA assisted in drafting the bill's provisions and supported the required elements in the Safety Element as strategies that every jurisdiction in high fire areas should be doing. The Governor however decided once again to veto the bill. His veto message is below.

I am returning Senate Bill 1207 without my signature. This bill is almost identical to a measure I vetoed last year because it would have placed significant fiscal pressures on the state's General Fund and on already strapped local government budgets. Yet, this bill does not address the concerns I expressed in last year's veto message. For this reason I am unable to sign this bill. Sincerely, Arnold Schwarzenegger

The bill was vetoed by the Governor

AB 231 – Huber and SB 1456 – Simitian – CEQA: cumulative effects and mediation

Position: Watch

These two bills, until January 1, 2016, provide that if a lead agency determines that a cumulative effect has been adequately addressed in a prior environmental impact report, that cumulative effect is not required to be examined in a later environmental impact report, mitigated negative declaration, or negative declaration. SB 1456 also authorizes:

- the Attorney General to request an expedited schedule for resolution of any CEQA lawsuit;
- any person wishing to file a CEQA lawsuit to first request, within five business days, mediation with the lead agency and the real party in interest; and
- a party to a CEQA lawsuit to request the court impose a penalty on any party making a "frivolous" claim, and authorizes the court to impose a penalty up to \$10,000.

The bill was signed into law by the Governor but not without a noteworthy message:

To the California State Legislature:

I am signing AB 231 and SB 1456.

AB 231 amends the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), to allow the lead agency for a later project that uses a tiered environmental impact report (EIR) to incorporate, by reference, a previous finding of overriding considerations for the earlier project if certain conditions are met. Of merit is the fact that this bill allows public entities some relief from the unfair political backlash that often occurs because they are required to override the same potential impact over and over again.

SB 1456 amends the CEQA regarding: 1) tiering and cumulative impact analysis; 2) mediation; 3) the ability of the Attorney General to request an expedited litigation schedule; and, 4) filing a motion for frivolous actions. Requiring project opponents to base CEQA claims on specific objections made during their participation in the public process will prevent project opponents from piggy-backing off of the comments and arguments of others to establish standing to sue.

Other than the provisions mentioned above, these bills are 99% garbage. Though small steps in the right direction, neither I nor the Legislature should fool ourselves into thinking that these bills even make a dent in the problems caused by CEQA's spaghetti-like requirements. I am greatly disappointed that the Legislature did not see fit to send to my desk a more substantive bill this legislative session designed to reduce widespread and rampant abuses plaguing the CEQA process abuses which are made possible by complex and overly bureaucratic requirements in the present law.

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“Quick Leg Info” Feature Now on Website Homepage



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.

Legislative Update

Continued from page 19

Serious legislative reforms to curb these abuses have been thwarted by interest groups at every turn, resulting in ineffective piecemeal legislation that does little to solve inherent flaws in law. Regrettably, our environmental laws and regulations often stand in the way of our environmental goals. Moreover, opportunists use these laws to prevent reasonable management of environmental resources while simultaneously forcing huge expenditures of taxpayer dollars.

As Governor, I have been frustrated to find that even our most routine environmental statutes present obstacles for public projects deemed good for the environment, ranging from things like building hiking trails to licensing renewable energy projects designed to provide clean, reliable, sustainable energy while spurring job creation in this State. There can be no doubt that the opportunistic user of CEQA is, by far, the worst offender, providing needless fodder to special interest groups bent on miring necessary and worthwhile development in years of litigation, uncertainty, and additional expense. Consequently, next year's crop of state lawmakers, including the next Administration, will again face the unique challenge of reining in CEQA abuses in the face of blind opposition determined to maintain an unworkable status quo.

It is my fervent hope that these policymakers pursue substantive and lasting reforms to CEQA that will serve to showcase California as an exemplary steward of the environment as well as a place for creative innovation and dynamic economic growth.
Sincerely, Arnold Schwarzenegger



Heather Allen

Planners on the Move

Heather Sowers Allen, senior planner for the City of Fullerton Community Development Department, has been promoted to the position of planning manager for the department.

Environmental Science Associates (ESA), is pleased to announce that **Philip Williams & Associates, Ltd.**, (PWA), a San Francisco-based environmental hydrology firm specializing in river and coastal restoration, has joined with ESA. For additional information about ESA, visit www.esassoc.com.

California Planners Asked to Provide Input on Climate Change Survey

Planners in California have been on the forefront of addressing climate change. Please take the time to participate in this nationwide U.S. survey on planners' perspectives on climate change mitigation.

APA California Members are urged to:

1. Participate in the survey (if you have not already done so); and
2. Forward this post to both individuals and planning lists in your state.

The survey is available at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NationalPlannersClimateChangeMitigationSurvey_PLANET2

Responses from both practicing planners and planning academics are encouraged and may elect to remain entirely anonymous.

For additional information, or if you are interested in receiving an executive summary of the survey results later this year, please contact Jeff Howard, Ph.D., Co-Investigator, Assistant Professor, School of Urban and Public Affairs, University of Texas Arlington, howardj@uta.edu

Join the APA California Legislative Review Teams

The APA California Legislative Review Teams are once again gearing up to review the new planning-related legislation to be introduced in 2011. To get more information on the teams, please visit the APA California website, www.apacalifornia.com. If you would like to become a member of the Review Teams, please e-mail Sande George at



sgeorge@stefangeorge.com.

AICP Information(CM)



AICP's Certification Maintenance (CM) program helps planners gain the knowledge and skills they need to remain current in the practice of planning. CM strengthens the value of certification, and demonstrates a Certified Planner's ongoing commitment to excellence to elected officials, community leaders, and employers.

Information about CM can be found at <http://www.planning.org/cm/index.htm>

APA California Chapter Broadcasts Information



APA California Chapter will be broadcasting important information to your e-mail address. So that you don't miss out on these important messages, please check your e-mail address with National APA. You can review and update your membership information online at www.planning.org. On the home page, go to the Member Services drop-down list and choose the Membership Database link. You will need your membership number which is located on your Planning Magazine label or your dues renewal invoice. Please call 916.736.2434 if you need assistance or further information.

By Curtis Alling, AICP

CEQA Reform is the Agenda

To address the recent increase in concerns raised by the Legislature and others about the time, expense, and effectiveness of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, the American Planning Association – California Chapter (APACA) and Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) are assembling a practitioner team to offer recommendations for statutory and regulatory enhancements to CEQA. The group is tentatively called the Enhanced CEQA Action Team (ECAT).

Mission:

CEQA has recently experienced an increase in proposed amendments that have been counterproductive to sound environmental planning. The mission of this team is to recommend legislative and regulatory changes to enhance CEQA's efficiency and effectiveness in achieving its original purposes. This mission is founded on the premise that CEQA is an important and constructive element of California public agency decision-making.

Work Product and Timeframe:

ECAT will prepare an action report with recommendations for changes to the CEQA statute and guidelines that are intended to streamline the environmental review process, reduce redundant analysis, reinforce effective public involvement, develop credible information for decision-makers, and support effective environmental protection, consistent with the existing policy purposes of the law. The work will begin in November with a report to be completed by May 2011 which will include a proposed legislative agenda in coordination with the leadership of APACA and AEP.

Organization, Approach, and Leadership:

In 1992, the APACA and AEP jointly formed a CEQA Task Force in response to an earlier cycle of counterproductive legislative proposals to amend the Statute. In 1993, the Task Force produced the report, *"Streamlining the California Environmental Quality Act: An Action Agenda."*

ECAT is another collaboration of APACA and AEP. With the 1993 agenda as background, the team will build upon prior recommendations to improve CEQA implementation. Team members are highly experienced and deeply involved in implementing CEQA as planners, environmental planners, and attorneys and, therefore, have the unique ability to recommend actions that help make the law operate well for all.

Three co-chairs guide the team, consisting of CEQA experts from APACA and AEP. They are Curtis Alling, AICP, environmental consultant and former chair of the APACA Climate Change Task Force; Pete Parkinson, AICP, APACA's Legislative and Policy Vice President; and Terry Rivasplata, AICP, AEP's *Environmental Assessor* editor.

The membership of the team consists of approximately 15 – 20 professional planners, environmental planners, consultants, and attorneys who are recognized as experts in the practice of CEQA and who support its original policy purposes. They are geographically diverse within the state and include the perspectives of local government, other lead agencies, responsible or trustee agencies, document preparers, and attorneys.

How Can You Help?

Please send your comments/suggestions for changes to CEQA to the emails listed. If you have examples of issues which would help to document why CEQA should be changed please forward those as well to the Chairs.

For Information:

If you would like further information about ECAT, please contact any of the co-chairs:

- Curtis E. Alling, Ascent Environmental, Inc., curtis.alling@ascentenvinc.com, (916) 930-3181
- Pete Parkinson, Sonoma County, pparkins@sonoma-county.org, (707) 565-1925
- Terry Rivasplata, ICF International, TRivasplata@icfi.com, (916) 737-3000

Cal Planner Production Schedule

Issue	Submit Articles	Issue Emailed
January/February	12-1	12-28
March/April	1-31	2-28
May/June	4-1	4-29

Dates subject to change.



For article and photo specifications, display and call card information, please check out the website at apacalifornia.org.

Chapter History Offerings Expand with Video Project, Oral Histories

APA California is continuing to work on the video for the 60th Anniversary of APACA. This work will continue with the appointment of Co-Chapter Historians: Steven Preston FAICP, for Southern California and J. Laurence Mintier, FAICP for Northern California.

Two new products will result from this effort – a 10-minute video documenting the history of the Chapter, and an expanded array of oral history interviews documenting the role of communities of color in shaping California planning.

The material generated will be used to enhance the research products generated for the 60th Anniversary in 2008, and to expand the dialogue about the influence of planning and planners in our communities. To learn more about the video project, the Chapter's research efforts, or to contribute information, please contact Chapter Historian Steve Preston at (626)

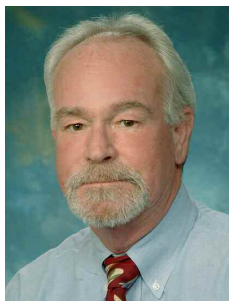
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Commissioner's Corner

"I Was Never Notified"

By Mike Notestine



"I was never notified" or "The first time I heard about this project was by today" How many times have you heard that? It is usually heard at our commission meetings during controversial project hearings and resulted in suspicion about the whole process. As a result of hearing this on numerous occasions we decided to investigate our outreach efforts and to explore how we could do it better to ensure we have a transparent and accessible public involvement process.

Our Commission identified several potential approaches to improving the public notification process:

1. Consider notification to tenants as well as property owners.
2. Improve signage used for posting notices on-site, including larger notice signs, more signs for very large sites, posting a sign at the time application is submitted (rather than a week or two in advance of the meeting), scaling the size of signs to the size of the site or potential impact of the type of project.
3. Ensure notice language is in "plain English" to eliminate jargon from notices (the example given was of a reference in a project description to "wayfinding" which simply means directional signs).
4. Consider increased radius for mailing of notices.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Sonoma State University's 27th Annual Planning Commissioners Conference

Saturday, December 4, 2010

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Presented by SSU's Department of Environmental Studies & Planning,
Center for Sustainable Communities, and Student Planning Association

An update on planning practice and law specially designed for planning
commissioners and agency staff

Watch for registration materials

Recognizing the ongoing fiscal challenges facing many local governments, we are maintaining our reduced registration fee this year at \$75 per person and not providing lunch at the end of the day's program. We hope this helps and we'll see you in December.

***Questions? Contact Jo-Ann Smith at 707.664.2306 or email at
joann.smith@sonoma.edu***

How to Login for the First Time



APA California Chapter members are now able to login to gain access to Members-Only capabilities. Have 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.

APA California Creates Facebook Group for Members

By joining, members will have another avenue to receive and share with like minded friends' up-to-date information regarding the Association and to network with each other.

We encourage you to accept and enjoy this invitation to join the APA California group and begin to enjoy this new service for our members. *But please refrain from posting anything other than issues related to planning.* We hope you continue to enjoy the advantages of this networking alternative.

The views expressed on the Facebook page are the individual's alone, and do not necessarily express the views of the APA California. Members may not post any content that is threatening, obscene, a violation of intellectual property rights or privacy laws, or otherwise injurious or illegal.



Check out our [Links](#), [Events](#) and [Discussion Board](#) for information about our new free lending library for AICP certification maintenance, legislation that is happening now in the California legislature and administration that will impact planning: view the hot bills, get copies of legislation and regulations, and find out how you can provide input, and much more.

Commissioner's Corner

Continued from page 22

5. Include a list of who was noticed as an attachment to each staff report.
6. Create an e-mail notice subscription service and/or website with notices on-line.
7. Involve Neighborhood Services or other departments in getting the word out about projects and hearings.
8. Ensure consistency across all planning processes (Staff-level, Zoning Administrator, CPC, other commissions, etc.).

The subcommittee met with staff and it was decided to initially implement modifications to site posting, simplify language in all forms of notification, provide a listing of who was noticed in staff reports, create an e-mail notice subscription service and website, and ensure consistency across all planning processes.

We have not, as yet, finalized all of these additions to our current processes, which we hope to do in the next couple of months. However we do plan to test these modifications and continually assess their effectiveness in creating more transparency to the planning process.

If we are to be the forum for public discourse, it is incumbent upon us to make sure the public is informed and knowledgeable; otherwise we will be viewed with doubt.

My final Commissioner's Corner

My two year stint as Commissioner Representative on the Board is about over. It has been interesting. I have learned that your Board of Directors are a dedicated group of professionals truly concerned with providing the best service to the membership even during a period of declining membership driven by the worst economic time in most of our lifetimes. They have worked diligently to reduce the cost and hassle of continuing education, to maintain support for our student members, to successfully convert CalPlanner from hard copy to digital, to provide financial assistance for annual membership and conferences, and to maintain financial resources for commissioner training.

You should take the opportunity to get involve at the state or section level. You will, I would hope, find it as rewarding as I did. I plan to stay involved and will provide whatever assistance I can to the incoming Planning Commission Representative and my local section.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity, good luck in your endeavors, and keep the passion for creating places in which we all want to live and work. That's what it is all about.

HUD Information May be Helpful to You

HUD USER view the American Planning Association as a vital institution in the housing community. HUD USER is offering HUD USER resources to the APA California membership. HUD USER is an online resource for housing research and information, provided as a service by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research. Their website www.huduser.org features ready access to HUD-sponsored periodicals, publications, and datasets utilized by state and local governments, builders, community planners, architects, and other housing professionals. Please feel free to access their website to obtain information which may prove helpful in addressing housing issues in your community.

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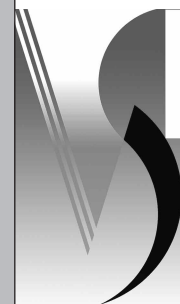
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