

CALIFORNIA PLANNER



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

Newsletter of the American Planning Association California Chapter



Summer 2011

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Join Us in Santa Barbara

APA California 2011 Annual Conference Santa Barbara

In just a few short months, over 1,000 planners and other professionals will descend upon Santa Barbara and the Fess Parker Doubletree Resort to wrap up the summer and take part in the 2011 APA California Conference.

The Conference will kick off on Sunday, September 11, with an exciting opening reception at the Santa Barbara Zoo, with local food and wine, lively entertainment, and a presentation of the flags by the Santa Barbara Fire Department to honor the 10th anniversary of September 11.

In addition to our insightful keynote speakers, the conference will include over 80 sessions ranging from "The Impacts of Going Green" to "The Future of Redevelopment" and covering every planning topic in-between. All sessions will be submitted for Certification Maintenance (CM) credits.

Several mobile workshops highlighting the beauty of Central Coast are planned, including trips to Downtown Ventura, a bike tour along the Ojai River, and a wine tour through the Santa Ynez Valley, made famous by the award winning independent film *Sideways* and one of California's up and coming wine regions.

Student day is Sunday, September 11, and will provide students the opportunity to be recognized for their achievements at the student awards luncheon, attend sessions, and showcase their work during the Student Poster Session. Donations are still being accepted for this year's California Planning Foundation (CPF) auction, which supports student scholarships for California's planning students. The goal is to surpass last year's auction record of \$29,000!

Join us for this thought-provoking and exciting Conference! Early registration is now available on the APA California website at calapa.org. When you register, be sure to purchase your carbon offset; we're asking for a donation of just \$2 to offset each participant's greenhouse gas emissions related to transportation to and from the conference. Also, please consider carpooling if you plan to drive to the Conference. We've set up a FREE and easy to use electronic bulletin board for attendees interested in carpooling.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Susan Anderson

*Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Director
City of Portland, Oregon*



Susan Anderson leads the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS). The bureau builds on the outstanding history of planning in Portland and ensures sustainability principles are fully integrated into the core of Portland's planning, urban design, and government operations. BPS is the lead agency for implementing the joint City and Multnomah County Climate Action Plan, which aims to reduce the region's greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050. It is also the lead bureau partner of the Portland Plan, a long-range plan to make Portland a thriving and sustainable city – a city that is prosperous, healthy and rich in opportunity for all.

Ms. Anderson holds degrees in Urban and Regional Planning, Economics and Environmental Science. In 2008, she was honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Oregon Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management, and has been named Outstanding Alumnus of the Environmental Studies Program from The University of California Santa Barbara.



APA California
Membership Information



California Planner Information



www.apacalifornia.com

Membership Financial Assistance Available

For our members experiencing financial hardship, APA California has extended its Membership Financial Assistance Program through 2011. Details are available by contacting the APA California office at 916.773.0288, or on our website through the following link: <http://www.calapa.org/en/cms/?252>

For Conference Registration and Information: www.calapa.org

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2011 APA California Chapter Conference Conference-at-a-Glance

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

8:30 am - 12:00 noon	Student Registration
9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Mobile Workshop #1 - Rail to Trail - Ojai Valley River Tour
	Mobile Workshop #2 - Reuse and Reinvention in Urban Centers - Downtown Ventura
10:00 - 11:30 am	What's Next (CPF Session)
11:45 am - 1:00 pm	Student Awards Luncheon (<i>students only</i>)
12:00 noon - 5:00 pm	Mobile Workshop #3 - Santa Ynez Valley Sustainable Wine-Making and Tasting Tour
12:00 noon - 6:00 pm	Conference Registration and Exhibitor Set Up
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Student Sessions
1:15 - 4:30 pm	Planning 101: How to Get and Keep a Job
	Introduction to CEQA and Careers in Environmental Planning
	Student Posterboard Display
3:00 - 4:30 pm	Student Sessions
	Resumes and Interviews for Students
	Charting a Career in Sustainability - Steps Students Can Take Before Graduating
5:00 - 10:00 pm	Opening Reception - Santa Barbara Zoo

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

7:30 - 9:00 am	Breakfast
7:30 am - 6:30 pm	Conference Registration
7:30 am - 8:30 pm	Exhibits Open <i>Exhibit Area</i>
8:45 - 10:15 am	Opening Plenary Session - Susan Anderson, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
9:00 am - 12:00 noon	Mobile Workshop #4 - Downtown Santa Barbara Architectural History Tour
10:30 am - 12:00 noon	Diversity Summit
10:30 - 11:45 am	Session Block #1A
	Yes, History Can Be Modern! Understanding the Next Wave of Historic Resources
	Redevelopment and Realignment: To Be or Not To Be
10:30 - 12:00 noon	Session Block #1B
	Mediating Land Use Disputes
	The California Silo Effect: Sustainable Community Strategy; Climate Action Plans; Regions, Subregions and Cities (Oh my!)
	Building Your Career: Resumes, Interviews, and Lessons Learned From Both Sides of the Counter
	Working with Religious Land Uses (RLUIPA)
	Is it Public Involvement or Public Relations?
	Translating Sustainability into Practice: Tools for Measuring Community Sustainability
12:15 - 1:45 pm	APA California Awards Luncheon

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

2:00 - 3:30 pm	Session Block #2A
	Annual CEQA Update
	Inclusionary Housing Ordinances: What's Next?
	Planting New Seeds: Sustainability and the Growing Popularity of Urban Agriculture
	ENGAGE! Putting the Crowd to Work
	Retail and Your Community
	Urban Design, Form, Feasibility and the Next Generation OR If You Plan It, Will They Come?
	The Two Sides of Going Green - Ethical and Environmental Dilemmas in Sustainability Planning
2:15 - 3:30 pm	Session Block #2B
	Local Climate Change Planning in 75 Minutes
	Planning Undercover: Land Use As An Art Form
2:00 - 6:00 pm	Mobile Workshop #5 - Art and Wine in Santa Barbara's Funk Zone
3:30 - 4:00 pm	Afternoon Break - CPF Silent Auction Opens
4:00 - 5:30 pm	Session Block #3
	LEED-ND Celebrity Jeopardy! Or. . . Who's Smarter Than a Planner?
	Technology Natives vs. Technology Immigrants
	Greening the Supply Chain – Problems, Prospects, and Plans
	APA Ethics Workshop
	No Shoe Phone Gimmicks Here! Tips to Avoid CEQA (and NEPA) Meetings with Your Attorney
	Beyond Buildings: New Models to Provide Affordable Housing and Break the Cycle of Homelessness
	Evolution of Green Building: What's Next for Tomorrow's Sustainable Communities?
	Sustainable and Restorative Community Development with Form-Based Codes
	Working Towards Effective and Efficient Conservation and Mitigation of Habitat and Open Space
5:45 - 9:00 pm	CPF Auction and Reception (Live and Silent)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

7:30 - 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast	<i>Exhibit Area</i>
7:30 am - 6:30 pm	Conference Registration	
7:30 am - 7:30 pm	Exhibits Open	
8:00 am - 12:00 noon	Mobile Workshop #6 - Affordable Housing Tour	
	Mobile Workshop #7 - LEED by Example	
8:00 - 9:15 am	Session Block #4	
	Sustainability and Public Relations	
	Planning Commission Session: The Networked and Intelligent City	
	How Can Planners Be Leaders: Getting Beyond Permit Processing (CPR Session)	
	Thinking Inside the Box: Best Practices on an Innovation to Improve Traffic Safety and Encourage Bicycling	
	Smart Growth: Successes and Challenges on California's Central Coast: Lessons of Infill Development from the Cities of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura	
	Renew and Rebuild - Strategies for Addressing the Foreclosure Crisis	
	A Tale of Two Cities, A Tale of Two Rivers	

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

8:00 - 9:15 am	Session Block #4 (continued)
	Making Science Relevant to Policymakers
	Complete Streets: From Policy to Implementation
9:30 - 10:45 am	Session Block #5
	AICP Exam Preparation Workshop
	Momentary Metropolis: City Planning Lessons from Burning Man
	FAR Wars: In a Community FAR, FAR Away...
	The Future of Redevelopment - Transition Planning for Expiring Agencies
	Campus and Community Life: A Collaboration That Works
	Workforce and Rental Housing ... Myths and Realities
	Model People-Oriented Street Manual
	Zoning and Stormwater 202: The Nitty-Gritty of Coding for Water Quality
	We Built This City on Rock and Roll (Earthquakes That Is!)
11:00 am - 12:15 pm	Session Block #6
	The Once and Future General Plan (Planners Emeritus Network)
	Preparing Successful Planning Grant Applications
	The Value of Green Building Programs: GHG Savings or Catalysts for Climate Action Plans?
	Chapter President Special Session
	CT EARTH: A New Era for Viewing Integrated Multimodal Transportation Data
	Urban Design Review – Santa Barbara’s Process, Background and Ideas for Improvement
	Got Water? Prove It!
12:30 - 2:00 pm	Keynote Luncheon - Panama Bartholomy, California Energy Commission
2:15 - 3:45 pm	Session Block #7A
	ECAT Update - What's New With the CEQA Improvement Effort
	Property Rights, Takings, and Exactions: A Legal and Practical Update for Planners
	LEED for Housing: Using LEED To Guide Design of Public Housing, Market Rate Housing and Existing Communities
	More Than a Mission – Respecting Historic Resources Under CEQA
	Cracking the Code: Making a Form-Based/Traditional Hybrid Code Work for Your City
	Electric Technology & Community Sustainability: A Planning Partnership
	Creating a Complete Community-The Real Benefits of Affordable Housing
2:30 - 3:45 pm	Session Block #7B
	LED Signs: The Future Is Now - Is Your Sign Code Ready?
	Lighten Up
3:00 - 6:00 pm	Mobile Workshop #8 - The Gaviota Coastline and Platform Holly
3:35 - 4:15 pm	Afternoon Break <i>Exhibit Area</i>
4:15 -5:45 pm	Session Block #8
	Using Public Health Data and Information for Planning
	The Man With the Golden Gun (aka. Sound Level Meter)
	Ethics 101: Testing What We Know About Ethics
	Options After the Downturn: What CEQA Analyses Are Required when an Entitled Project is Changed?

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

4:15 - 5:45 pm	Session Block #8 (continued)
	Legislative Update
	Why We Need to Plan for Habitat Restoration Projects
	Planning for Transit - Identifying and Planning for High-Speed and Traditional Transit Stations in our Communities
	Climate Adaptation - Acting In the Face of Uncertainty
	Mobilehome Park Conversions: Lessons Learned and Challenges Ahead
6:00 - 7:30 pm	Wine and Cheese Consultant's Reception

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

7:30 - 9:00 am	Light Continental Breakfast
7:30 am - 12:00 noon	Registration
8:00 - 9:15 am	Session Block #9
	Grand Boulevard Initiative: Advancing Regional Planning Through Local Collaboration
	Infill Development and CEQA under SB 375
	Successes and Challenges of the Mission to Revitalize the Los Angeles River
	Resource Challenges: Planning for Wildfire Hazard Reduction in the Wildland Urban Interface
	Bag the Plastic Bags - State and Local Efforts to Restrict Plastic Bag Use
	You Just Don't Understand Me: Making Public/Private Communication More Effective
	Reaching Community with Student Assistance: Augmenting Public Outreach at Cal Poly SLO
	A Small Project with a Big Personality
	The Baseline Inventory: What You Should Know Before Preparing a GHG Reduction Plan
9:30 - 10:45 am	Session Block #10
	Moving Forward: A Tool for Estimating VMT Reductions
	Sustainable Development (CPR Session)
	3D Modeling in Planning
	Creating Centers of Innovation: Economic Development and Place-Making
	Land Assembly in a Post-RDA World
	First Report of TRB Study on Highway Planning in Sensitive Habitats: Taking an Ecological Approach
	Wind Energy Ordinances in California: Facing Issues & Discussion Actions to Overcome Them
11:00 am - 12:15 pm	Closing Plenary Session - <i>Census 2010: Where Did My People Go?</i>
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Exhibitor Tear-Down
1:00 - 4:00 pm	Mobile Workshop #9 - Lotus Land - A Tour of California's Premier Estate Botanic Garden

NOTE: All required APA California leadership meeting dates and times to be determined.

The Conference-at-a-Glance is subject to change. Please check www.calapa.org often for updates.

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For Conference Registration and Information: www.calapa.org

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A Continuing Commitment to Sustainability

The 2011 APA California Annual Conference continues APA California's commitment to integrate sustainable practices into all facets of the Conference. Based on the great work done by the 2010 Conference Sustainability Committee, the APA California Board decided to formally integrate "Sustainability" into conference planning. As a result, APA California includes a Sustainability Plan in its official Conference Manual, which contains the following "Sustainability Mission Statement."

The APA California will strive to reduce the impact that its annual conferences have on the environment by implementing sustainability practices. Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It involves making decisions that preserve the values of environmental, economic, and social responsibility.

Arising from this Mission Statement, are the primary Sustainability objectives for the Conference:

Based on these objectives, the 2011 APA California Conference Host Committee has developed several programs that are being introduced for the first time.

Objective 1

Minimize waste generated from the Conference, including waste from written Conference materials, catering, and Conference operations.

Objective 2

Encourage sustainable practices by the Conference host, vendors, sponsors and exhibitors, and Conference attendees.

Objective 3

Calculate and reduce the carbon footprint of the Conference by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated from transportation related to the Conference.

You Can Purchase a Carbon Offset for your Conference Transportation Footprint

For just \$2.00 added to your registration fee, you can offset the carbon footprint associated with transportation to and from the Conference. To offset the entire Conference "Transportation Footprint" we're hoping to raise at least \$2,000. All of the money contributed will be used to purchase carbon offsets from TerraPass, a company headquartered in California. All of their projects are located in North America and comply with standards established by the Verified Carbon Standard and the Climate Action Reserve.

The Offset purchase is available through the APA Registration page.

We've Made Carpooling to the Conference Easy

If traveling to the 2011 Conference in a car is part of your plan, think about carpooling! For your convenience, APA California has created a link to a web-based bulletin board called eRideshare.com. We've established a group solely for use by Conference attendees where you

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Panama Bartholomy

Deputy Director for the Efficiency and Renewables Division, California Energy Commission

Panama Bartholomy is Deputy Director for the Efficiency and Renewables Division California Energy Commission, where he works on climate change, land use, renewable energy, transmission, green building, and biofuels policy. He is a board member for the Humboldt Bay Center for Sustainable Living. He serves on the City of Sacramento's Planning Commission and General Plan Advisory Committee and is a Commissioner on the County of Sacramento's Environmental Commission. He previously worked for the California Conservation Corps on vocational environmental education and the Division of the State Architect where he ran the Sustainable Schools program. He also is the president of the US Green Building Council, Northern California Chapter.



can post "Rides Offered" and "Rides Wanted." It's easy (and free) to register.

The link to eRideshare.com is available through the APA Registration page.

We're Launching an APA California Conference App

The Conference Mobile App will allow you to access conference information at your fingertips, and save lots of paper in the process. Conference site maps, program schedules, speaker biographies, last minute venue changes, nearby restaurants....all this and more will be accessible on your PDA at no cost to you.

In addition to these programs, we're working with the Fess Parker Resort to provide as much local food as possible and to make recycling at the Conference easy by ensuring that there are accessible recycling containers for plastics, bottles/cans, and paper. Please make sure you bring your own water bottle, as there will be no individual water bottles provided!

For more information regarding the 2011 APA California State Conference Sustainability activities, please contact Shelley Sussman at shelley.sussman@ventura.org.

For Conference Registration and Information: www.calapa.org

MOBILE WORKSHOPS

Share the beauty of the Central Coast. Join us for one of our mobile workshops at this year's Conference.

Mobile Workshop #1 - Sunday, September 11, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Rail to Trail: Ojai Valley River Tour

Join us for a bike ride along the Ojai Valley River Trail. The trail, a joint collaboration between the City of Ojai, and the City and County of Ventura provides an important regional recreational resource while reinforcing the community's understanding of the importance of watershed planning, open space protection, and alternative transportation.

Mobile Workshop #2 - Sunday, September 11, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Reuse and Reinvention in Urban Centers - Downtown Ventura

The tour will introduce planners to a local jurisdiction's effort at redevelopment, urban design and public-private partnerships in the eclectic beachside town of Ventura. A downtown walking tour of projects and concepts will highlight city implementation strategies for reusing older buildings, blending new development into the existing downtown fabric, and how the city is proposing a dramatic reconnection of downtown to the beach by capping Highway 101.

Mobile Workshop #3 - Sunday, September 11, 12:00 noon - 5:00 pm

Santa Ynez Valley Sustainable Wine -Making and Tasting Tour

Come see how the Santa Ynez Valley is still feeling the 'Sideways Effect.' During this tour planners will tour the vineyards and wineries that made the independent wine movie a smash hit. We will focus on sustainable agricultural practices in action, learn about initiatives led by several non-profit organizations to educate growers about sustainable practices, and of course, taste some wine.

Mobile Workshop #4 - Monday, September 12, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Downtown Santa Barbara Architectural History Tour

Experience Santa Barbara—its architecture and its past—in a unique and personal way. Join us in a small group walking tour of the downtown area. by trained docents of the Architectural Foundation, the tour focuses on architectural styles, significant and historic buildings, past and present building usage, and landscape history. Discover why Santa Barbara is so often called "The Riviera of America".

Mobile Workshop #5

Art and Wine in Santa Barbara's Funk Zone -

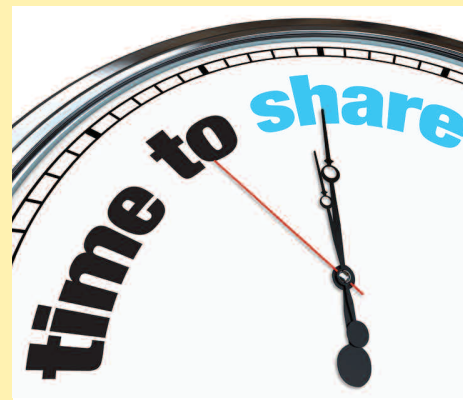
Monday, September 12,

2:00 - 6:00 pm

The Funk Zone is Santa Barbara's hip, cool and edgy side of town. This mixed-use neighborhood by the waterfront is a 16 block area east of State Street. Join us as we take a walking (and tasting) tour through the neighborhood, with docents who will discuss the area's public art and efforts to revitalize the neighborhood.



Calling All California Planning Students!



Sunday is your day at the 2011 California Planning Conference. Students attending this free day will have the opportunity to hear from seasoned planning professionals, showcase your work at the student poster session, and recognize the 2011 California Planning Foundation Award Winners at the Student Awards Luncheon.

The day will start with a morning panel by the California Planning Foundation (CPF). This session will introduce students to the CPF Scholarship program through recent recipients of CPF scholarships that are now working in the planning profession. Panelists will provide students with tips and recommendations about making the transition from student to planning professional. The morning session will be followed by the Student Awards Luncheon.

This year there will be four afternoon sessions that will cover topics relevant to students and young professionals including an introduction to CEQA, tips for building your resume, suggestions on how to get a job and keep it, and ways to chart a career in sustainability.

In addition to the afternoon sessions, there will be a Student Poster Session during student day. Students will be able to showcase and discuss their work with other students, professors, and planning professionals. The posters will be on display during the entire conference.

Come for the day, or stay for the whole conference! There will be sessions and networking opportunities for students throughout the conference. Students that wish to attend the FREE day or the entire conference will need to register on the APA California website. Students attending the full conference pay just half of the full registration fee.

Mobile Workshop #6 - Tuesday, September 13, 8:00 am - 12:00 noon **Affordable Housing Tour**

The Affordable Housing Tour will highlight a variety of projects that provide housing opportunities to the City's special needs population. The housing projects on the tour underscore Santa Barbara's commitment to providing affordable housing, while preserving the character of the neighborhoods they are located in. The tour will visit five exemplary projects selected for their diversity and quality design.

Mobile Workshop #7 - Tuesday, September 13, 8:00 am - 12:00 noon **LEED by Example**

Public-private partnerships are important in implementing innovative energy efficient policies. Participants will learn from city staff, consultants, developers, utility and sustainability experts, about sustainability programs and will tour several of the area's LEED certified buildings.

Mobile Workshop #8 - Tuesday, September 13, 3:00 - 6:00 pm **The Gaviota Coastline and Platform Holly**

See the Santa Barbara, Goleta and Gaviota coastline on this boat tour. The tour will focus on the onshore and offshore oil facilities that are managed by Veneco, where participants will view and learn about the world's largest naturally occurring oil seeps, circle around Platform Holly, and get a chance to see Blue and Humpback whales or other marine life in the Channel.

Mobile Workshop #9 - Wednesday, September 14, 1:00 - 4:00 pm **Lotus Land: A Tour of California's Premier Estate Botanic Garden**

Lotusland is a 37 acre estate and botanic garden located in the foothills of Montecito to the east of Santa Barbara. The tour will provide participants with an opportunity to tour an estate and botanic garden of historical and horticultural significance and gain greater understanding of landscape architectural elements, including rare and exotic plants from around the world.



CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

Where Did My People Go?

New demographic and socioeconomic data from the 2010 Census is being released weekly. What is the story told by shifting demographics? How will these trends impact the 21st century workplace? What are the implications for land use planning and public policy in California?



To address these issues and more, the conference will wrap up on Wednesday with a special closing session on Census 2010. James Christy, Los Angeles Regional Director of the US Census Bureau, will provide an overview of census related changes at the national level, followed by John Malson, Acting Director of Demographic Research Unit at the California Department of Finance, who will focus on statewide shifts in demographics. A lively panel will explore environmental and social justice implications, data accuracy, tips for using census data effectively, and provide a live demonstration of the American Factfinder tool. Come learn more about California's shifting population, age, household types, and race, and what this means for you.

Diversity Summit

Monday morning, this year's Diversity Summit will also touch on Census 2010 data, but with an emphasis on underserved communities, communities of color, and the planners who work in those communities.

Hans Johnson, a Senior Fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, will discuss 2010 Census data and demographic shifts. Following his presentation, participants will form breakout groups. Join in the discussion on topical issues such as changes in the political landscape, population diversity, concentrations of population growth, and the public policy implications.

Come early and stay late to enjoy all of the beauty of the Central Coast on these mobile workshops!
To register or for information on the mobile workshop, visit www.calapa.org.

For Conference Registration and Information: www.calapa.org

President's Message

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



APA California Looks to Santa Barbara this Fall

With summer at hand, it's time for a little relaxation and a road trip or two. Before you know it, July 4th and Labor Day will be upon us. And then, just when you thought the summer fun was over, our APA California annual conference will begin!

Mark your calendars and sign up now for the APA California 2011 Annual Conference in Santa Barbara, September 11 – 15 at the Fess Parker Doubletree Hotel. This year's theme is "Mission Possible: Get Smart", reflecting the local setting and the emphasis on best practices and professional development that will recharge your planning engine.

If you've been to a state conference, you know how relevant, valuable, and transferable the sessions and activities are since they focus exclusively on California planning topics and themes. If you've been to a state conference, you know how important the emphasis on value and low cost is as well. One single registration fee gets you access to the full conference, including the awards presentation, networking events, and a complete array of sessions and professional development workshops.

If you haven't been to a state conference, this is the year to give it a shot! APA California brings its annual conference to each of the eight local APA sections throughout the state. Each eight year rotation cycle allows planners from across the state to experience all the unique corners of California, and the physical, demographic, and cultural diversity of our profession. Why not hop on now and see for yourself?

Registration is open, and information is available on our website www.calapa.org. Register by July 15 to get the early bird rate, saving you even more.

Summer hopefully also gives us a breather to allow us to stop and appreciate all the good that planning does. Allows us to smell the planning roses, if you will. Whether it's attending a local awards program and recognizing excellence in the field, or successfully advancing the field of planning yourself in large or tiny ways, we together make planning what it is, one step at a time. And collectively we set our profession on the road to what it will be in the future.

Together our membership has skills to tackle just about any planning challenge out there. And this is where APA California is moving next. Join us as we develop APA California's professional volunteer program, where land use professionals can give back to communities in need on a volunteer basis. It's completely optional, it's necessary, and it's all up to us.

Whether you have new energy or seasoned experience, we are looking for you. The goal is to develop a focused outreach to two or three causes each year- be it a geographic community or statewide effort. Outreach will cumulate in an intensive day-long workshop to be held onsite. Together, APA will leave pro-bono ideas, visions, and tools as part of a lasting change... along with a deeper sense of purpose for ourselves and our profession.

It's under development, and we want your input and ideas. Email me at kevin.keller@lacity.org with any thoughts and comments you may want to share. We'd love to hear from you.

Enjoy summer and all that California has to offer!



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AMERICAN PLANNING
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California Planner

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Send editorial submissions and queries to APA California c/o Dorina Blythe, GranDesigns, 31807 Green Oak Way, Temecula, CA 92592 or e-mail them to Dorina@GranDesigns.us. Rates for job announcements, display and calling card advertisements can be obtained by visiting the APA California website at <http://www.calapa.org/en/cms/?294> or by contacting Laura Murphy at 916.773.0288 or email nhe2011@live.com.

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CA Planning Roundtable www.cproundtable.org



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"The AICP CEP credential can definitely make your resume pop out. It tells employers you are a well-qualified environmental planner and leader," said Nancy J. McKeever, an air pollution specialist in the Office of Climate Change of the California Air Resources Board who helped create the AICP Certified Environmental Planner exam.

"The AICP CTP credential is a way for experienced transportation planners to distinguish themselves. Those who qualify show they are dedicated and among the leaders of their profession," added Mike McAnelly, FAICP, a Texas-based, senior-level planner who helped develop the AICP Certified Transportation Planner examination. "I can't think of a better way to advance their transportation planning careers."

The first exam took place in May 2011, with the next one to follow in May 2012. APA members can register to receive alerts about next year's CTP and CEP exams.

Those who earn an ASC credential will have a valuable endorsement of their expertise to show their employers, potential

employers, and on consulting jobs. The ASC webpage gives details on eligibility criteria, application instructions, the exam outline, suggested reading, prep materials, and the value of the credential. The added credential does not increase membership dues. AICP members who earn an ASC designation will be required to meet Certification Maintenance requirements. At least 10 of the 32 CM credits required each reporting period must be on the credentialed specialty — transportation or environmental planning.

To qualify for the ASC exams, planners must be AICP members in good standing with at least eight years' experience in their specialty.

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.



Pay Your APA National Dues Monthly

National APA provides members with an option to pay their dues on a monthly basis. If you cannot afford the lump sum contact National APA and have your dues prorated over 12 months and deducted directly from your bank account. Contact National APA for more information or when you receive your dues statement ask for that option. www.Planning.org



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AICP Advanced Specialty Certifications Promote Career Growth

Continued from page 10

Professionals who are not yet members of the American Institute of Certified Planners can take the AICP exam in November 2011.

Exam Prep Encouraged

Groh suggests AICP CEP and AICP CTP candidates start by reviewing the exam outlines posted online. APA also has a wealth of educational resources to bolster skills in advance of the exams. A recommended reading list highlights relevant books and articles as well as government resources and other reports.

Other resources for exam preparation include:

- APA's annual National Planning Conference, featuring advanced workshops on transportation and environmental planning issues, all affording CM credits
- Virtual conference sessions available for purchase
- Planners Training Service workshops, held around the country two or three times a year, often covering transportation and environmental planning
- CD-ROMs of 2010 training workshops tailored to the transportation and environmental certification exams
- Catalogs of educational CD-ROMs, books, and Planners Advisory Service materials targeting the transportation and environmental planning exams
- Audio/web conferences on advanced topics such as "Performance Measures in Transportation Planning," "Designing for Water Conversation," and "Renewable Local Energy"
- Podcasts on "Complete Streets," "Planning for a New Climate Future," and other topics of interest
- An abundance of relevant Planners Press and other titles, complemented by APA Planning Advisory Service reports, offered at APAPanningBooks.com
- For step-by-step guidance through the certification process, download the ASC Exam Candidate Bulletin. And to connect with others who share your interests, get involved in APA's Transportation Planning or Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy division. Both offer opportunities to keep current, network with colleagues, and continue on a path of professional growth.

Contact APA at asc@planning.org with any additional questions.

New Partners for Smart Growth Call for Session Proposals - Closes June 30, 2011

The Call for Session Proposals (CFSP) for the 11th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference has officially opened! The conference will be held February 2 - 4, 2012 in San Diego, CA.

The CFSP Submittal Instructions and online Submittal Form are now available on the conference web site. All proposals must be submitted using the online form under the link below. This process should be used to submit any proposals for breakouts, workshops, lightening rounds, trainings, tours, or networking activities. The CFSP process is open from May 16 through June 30, 2011.

Form and instructions: <http://www.newpartners.org/cfsp/>



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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.

Student Scoop

FREE Student Day at APA California Conference Offers Tips for New Planning Professionals

By Chris Read, APA California, Student Representative



As students in planning, we have taken theory classes, CEQA classes, design classes, and all the other classes that we are expected and required to take. We have learned the current trends in planning and have acquired numerous skills. If one wants to be a professional planner, though, it is also important to know who is doing these practices in California and where they are being done. The annual APA California conference is a great chance to learn these things and more.

At last year's conference, for example, I expanded my knowledge of trail planning with several sessions on the subject. I learned which firms were involved in these

endeavors and which municipalities were undertaking these projects. I also obtained contact information for private and public leaders in the field.

Speaking of private and public, one of the major choices we must make after we graduate is whether to pursue jobs in the private or public sector. The APA California conference gives students a chance to interact with professionals in both sectors in a way that is not possible in most other venues. For example, at the Carlsbad conference, I received career advice from a city manager, the head of a city planning department, three planning staff members, two associates at private firms, and the prime of a large firm. This kind of informal education is extremely valuable and can help students get a better understanding of the planning world.

The 2011 APA California Conference in Santa Barbara offers students a variety of other benefits. The Sunday before the conference is a day dedicated to students. For no charge, students are invited to meet their peers from around the state, receive professional advice, and see other students' research. Students also receive a significant discount when they register for the full conference.

If any students have questions about the conference, feel free to contact me at cread@calpoly.edu or visit the website at <http://www.calapa.org/2011-conference/>.

See you in Santa Barbara!

Calling All California Planning Students!



SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 7 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FREE STUDENT HAPPENINGS IN SANTA BARBARA!

Planning on the Move

The World Bank and the IUCN announced the publication of *Mitigating Climate Change through Restoration and Management of Coastal Wetlands and Near-shore Marine Ecosystems*. The report, which addresses the benefits of protecting and restoring coastal wetlands, was researched and presented by a team of climate change experts, including **ESA PWA's Climate Change Program Manager, Stephen Crooks, Ph.D.** To learn more about ESA PWA, visit our website at www.pwa-ltd.com.

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Issue	Submit Articles	Issue Emailed*
Fall	September 1	October 1
Winter 2012	December 1	January 1
Spring 2012	March 1	April 1
Summer 2012	June 1	July 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 apacalifornia.org.

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APA California Legislative Update - May/June 2011

Governor's May Revise Budget Recommendations Announced

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



Governor Brown released his May Revision for the 2011-12 State Budget, announcing that the state will receive over \$6 billion more in additional state revenues than expected. Although that is good news, it still leaves approximately \$10 billion more that needs to be found to balance the budget.

Of interest to planners is that the May Revise includes full funding for the Highway User Tax Account. Unfortunately it also continues to propose the complete elimination of redevelopment agencies, which does not have support in the Legislature, instead of reforms. The Governor did decide to continue redesigned enterprise zones, has fine tuned his realignment package and is now asking for

a smaller tax increase (to be passed by the Legislature first, then approved by the voters later.)

As budget discussions continue the legislature has passed its first policy deadline for bills to be heard in their own house. Below are a few of the key planning-related measures we have been lobbying. For an up-to-date complete list of bills anytime, log on to the APA California website at www.calapa.org.com

ECAT UPDATE

The American Planning Association – California Chapter (APA California) and Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) are about to release recommendations for statutory and regulatory enhancements to CEQA. The group is called the Enhanced CEQA Action Team (ECAT). The mission of this team is to recommend legislative and regulatory changes to enhance CEQA's efficiency and effectiveness in achieving its original purposes and is founded on the premise that CEQA is an important and constructive element of California public agency decision-making. The CEQA reform package language is now drafted and has been sent to the full Resource Group for final review. In addition, ECAT has been meeting with the legislature and the Governor's office to discuss issues, potential solutions and timelines. The top five CEQA issues to be addressed in the ECAT package are:

- Litigation process
- Ineffective infill project streamlining provisions
- Difficulty in defending MND's/NDs
- Legally vulnerable and ineffective tiering provisions
- Difficulties in analyzing cumulative impact.

Continue to watch the *Cal Planner* legislative updates for more information.

HOT BILLS

AB 1220 (Alejo) FIVE-YEAR Statute of Limitations for Housing Element Challenges Oppose

This bill is modeled after AB 602 from last year, which was vetoed by the Governor. 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

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Legislative Update - Spring 2011

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challenge housing elements and other housing policies and ordinances, even though they were allowed to proceed in this case based on alternative challenge provisions. AB 1220, like AB 602, allows a five-year statute of limitations on challenges to the adequacy of housing elements and implementing ordinances. It also provides various exemptions for projects underway from building moratoriums mandated by the courts during a challenge.

APA remains strongly opposed to this bill. This measure will encourage a broad array of lawsuits that do not differentiate between major noncompliance with state law or a small difference in interpretation, leave local agencies, developers and businesses unfairly open to uncertainty long after decisions have been made, and expose local agencies to millions of dollars in attorneys fees even if the city or county successfully defends a lawsuit. It also ignores the many other new fast and effective remedies that address the sponsor's concerns that were placed into law through SB 375.

Unfortunately, despite strong opposition from APA and local governments, this bill has now passed the Assembly and is in the Senate, mainly because of their argument that this is simply a "reinstatement of existing law". According to the Assembly Housing Committee analysis, prior to the *Urban Habitats* decision, "it was generally understood that current law allowed a party to challenge the adequacy of a city's or county's housing element at any time during a planning period, provided that the challenger brought the action in support of or to encourage or facilitate the development of housing and would increase the community's supply of affordable housing." From our standpoint, there have been a number of major changes and additions to housing law since the *Habitat* decision that do not warrant opening up cities and counties to five years of lawsuits.

We are asking members to write a letter to their Senator in opposition to the bill. It is critical that we stop this bill. Below is a link to find the address of your Senator and sample arguments.

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>

- AB 1220 would expand from over one year to five years the statute of limitations to sue a city or county, challenging the adoption of a housing element or a number of related ordinances – substantially longer than the 90-days to challenge the entire General Plan or 30 days to challenge a CEQA document.
- It will encourage a broad array of expensive lawsuits that do not differentiate between major noncompliance with state law or a small difference in interpretation. This will leave local agencies, businesses, and developers unfairly open to uncertainty long after decisions have been made.
- It is important to note that these challenges do not mandate approval of actual housing projects, but only require a change in a planning document.
- Our concerns related to this bill are consistent with our opposition to similar bills introduced in previous legislative sessions – except that this year we are faced with implementing SB 375, a new statute that will for the first time require linkages and consistency between the allocation of housing need numbers (the housing element), land use (the new regional sustainable communities strategies) and targeting transportation investments (the regional transportation plan). This is a significant and new challenge for regions, cities and counties and therefore is not the time to provide greater exposure to litigation by "any interested party".
- We expect all stakeholders to engage fully in the significant public outreach required to develop these plans, thus 5-years to challenge the adequacy of the housing element after adoption is excessive and threatens the certainty critical to successful implementation of SB 375. There are also a number of new remedies available to housing advocates to enforce local housing obligations, at the very time local agencies will be expected to implement a large number of brand new housing element requirements.

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- Under this bill, a small misstep on the part of the local agency can shut down development in a jurisdiction until a lawsuit is completed, even though more targeted remedies are available that can require a local agency to make a fix without imposing a full building moratorium until a court makes a final determination.
- This unbalanced option to sue long after adoption of the housing element imposes defense costs upon financially strapped cities and counties, win or lose. With more lawsuits comes greater burden on limited funds, not more housing.
- **Although we offered a two year compromise in trying to work with the sponsors, it was rejected. We simply cannot support the possibility of open ended lawsuits that create uncertainty and financial hardships on local governments attempting to craft perfect housing elements out of a subjective housing element law subject to different interpretations.**
- **For all these reasons we must respectfully urge a NO vote.**

SB 244 (Wolk) Mandated and Unfunded Planning for Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

Oppose Unless Amended

This bill is modeled after SB 1174 by Wolk last year, which would have required a city or county to amend its General Plan to address the presence of island, fringe, or legacy unincorporated communities inside or near its boundaries, as well as the lack of services and infrastructure. Without a source of funding to assist communities with the planning and infrastructure funding, SB 1174 was not pursued last year.

SB 244, even as amended recently to remove some of the more onerous requirements, would still impose a very expensive new mandate on cities and counties to amend their General Plans with an extraordinary amount of detail regarding not only disadvantaged but also "fringe communities" which are not required to meet any disadvantaged criteria. It also would require cities and counties to identify ways to mitigate a very broad and un-prioritized list of services in these communities without funds for either the planning requirements or to improve the services and infrastructure. Although the bill includes the ability to impose planning fees to pay for these mandates, those fees in reality cannot be collected as they would have to be imposed on the very residents in these disadvantaged communities that in all likelihood cannot afford such fees. In addition, the bill includes just as detailed and expensive study and service review requirements on LAFCo's, which ultimately must be paid for by cities and counties that fund the LAFCOs.

Given the current recession, cities and counties continue to face funding shortfalls and insufficient staffing levels for planning, services and infrastructure improvements. Many cities and counties have taken steps to address disadvantaged unincorporated communities and our associations agree that substandard conditions should be addressed in a way that is appropriate to each community. We recognize the importance of an inclusive planning process that addresses the needs of communities and populations that have been historically underserved. However, in these economic times, there simply are no resources. Some of these deficiencies are due to the lack of infrastructure maintenance funding that is now impacting infrastructure city- and county-wide. And there is a patchwork of special districts that govern existing infrastructure in many of these communities, making it difficult to coordinate changes.

However, APA along with CSAC, the League and RCRC, believe that addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities through the planning process and finding tools to support the infrastructure deficiencies remain very important. To this end, we have offered amendments that reduce the extraordinarily detailed and costly requirements in the bill but also begin to target health and safety related infrastructure deficiencies in disadvantaged communities in the General Plan. With these amendments we would remove our opposition to the bill.

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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 - May/June 2011

Continued from page 15

SB 244 is on the Senate Floor. Please send letters to your Senators and Assembly members expressing your specific concerns with this bill and supporting the local government coalition amendments.

AB 710 (Skinner) Restrictions on Parking Requirements Near Transit Watch

This bill states that a city and/or county shall not require a minimum parking standard greater than one parking space per thousand square feet of nonresidential improvements and one parking space per unit of residential improvements for any new development project, including changes of use that incorporate existing building improvements in transit intensive areas. To avoid this new one-size fits all parking standard, a jurisdiction would be required to complete a detailed parking study in order to allow a local government to impose their own existing parking standards. This bill is sponsored by the infill builders, who maintain that excessive parking requirements for residential and commercial developments are one of the most expensive requirements that make infill development difficult.

APA has been in discussions with the sponsors of the bill to determine if there is a way to deal with excessive parking requirements without mandating every jurisdiction, regardless of local circumstances, to meet this new state-mandated parking standard. If you have examples of how this measure would impact infill development, or ideas about alternatives to a one-size fits all parking standard, please send it to sgeorge@stefangeorge.com.

SB 184 (Leno) Impact of Costa-Hawkins on Inclusionary Housing Programs Support

SB 184, also sponsored by the housing advocates, is designed to address a consequence of the *Palmer/Sixth Street Properties L.P. v. City of Los Angeles* court decision. The bill states that the Costa-Hawkins Act does not apply to inclusionary housing programs. This will specifically clarify that inclusionary zoning is a permissible land use power.

Important Deadlines

June 3	Last day for bills to be passed out of the house of origin
June 6	Committee meetings may resume
June 15	Budget must be passed by midnight
July 8	Last day for policy committees to meet and report bills
July 15	Summer Recess begins at the end of this day's session, provided Budget Bill has been enacted
Aug. 15	Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess
Aug. 26	Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills to the Floor
Aug. 29 Sept. 9	Floor Session only. No committees, other than conference committees and Rules Committee, may meet for any purpose
Sept. 2	Last day to amend bills on the Floor
Sept. 9	Last day for each house to pass bills



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HISTORIAN'S CORNER

There's History to be Had in California Planning

by Steven A. Preston, FAICP, APA California Chapter Historian (South)

Larry Mintier, FAICP, Chapter Historian (Northern California)

In most the country, urban and regional planning is seen as a relatively 'new' profession, with barely a century under its belt. True as that may be, it is one with a rich and evolving history, and each year we are seeing more and more opportunities arrive to celebrate our history as a community and a profession. This summer will see several initiatives devoted to the history of planning in California.

LARPHG Stages Colloquium VI: "Invented Spaces of Authentic Places?"

The Los Angeles Region Planning History Group (LARPHG) will stage its sixth annual colloquium in July, focusing on the distinctions between invented and authentic urban spaces.

According to a statement on its website, "the Los Angeles region has evolved as much from out-sized dreams and inventions as from traditional rules for establishing human settlements." Carey McWilliams called Los Angeles an "improbable" place not destined to succeed, but determined to do so.

Organizers note that as Southern California developed, the visionaries who built the region knew it was less about location and more about destination. The enormous popularity of "invented" or themed destinations – Venice of America, Olvera Street, Disneyland, Third Street Promenade, CityWalk, The Grove and many others – has provided planners, designers and developers with inspiration and lessons on both success and failure.

What is the difference between those places that have a "unifying vision" and those that celebrate a "messy vitality"? Where do "invented" places end and "authentic" places begin? In a land where set designers build houses, architects design movie sets, and many of our most cherished "public" spaces are privately owned and operated, anything is possible. A distinguished panel, moderated by author and planner Sam Gennawey, will address these questions. Scheduled panelists include:

David Sloane, Professor, USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development

Hassan Haghani, Community Development Director, City of Glendale

Vaughan Davies, Principal and Director of Urban Design, AECOM

Tim O'Day, O'Day and Associates

Neal Payton, Principal, Torti Gallas and Partners

Tickets are available at \$40 for regular admission, \$20 for students. For more information, contact LARPHG at www.larphg.org.

Cal Poly Pomona's CED Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Cal Poly Pomona celebrated the 40th anniversary of its College of Environmental Design last month, taking a look a back at the evolution of the university into one of the nation's leading universities for the study of urban and regional planning, landscape architecture, architecture, and the graphic arts.

More than 200 current and former faculty members, students, and staff participated in a day long series of panel discussions, exhibits and events, capped by an evening reception.

There's History to Be Had in the Inland Empire

Inland Empire Section Historian **Miguel Angel Vasquez**, is undertaking a project to examine the evolution of planning in the City of Riverside. Many may not know that Riverside – in addition to being the home of the legendary Mission Inn – was one of the first California cities to have a Beaux-Arts, City Beautiful Comprehensive Plan. Developed by planning pioneer Charles



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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.

There's History to be Had in California Planning

Continued from page 17

Cheney, the 1927 Riverside plan may be credited with helping develop some of the remarkable streetscapes, public spaces, and building profiles that make historic downtown Riverside a unique and appealing place.

Miguel is looking for volunteers to help with the research and writing. If you know of anyone with archival records, or people with good research skills who might be willing to help unravel the tale of Riverside's planning history, contact Miguel at mavurbanplanning@gmail.com.

4th Annual Historical Symposium Set by Inland Empire Section

California's rich and romantic history has been told in countless ways. On June 16, Inland Empire planners and historians will gather for the fourth annual historical symposium to reveal the layers that have enticed generations to seek this promised land of deserts, valleys and golden mountains.

The story begins with an organic system of trails; routes connecting waterways, wildlife corridors and hunting and gathering communities. An engineered system of highways connecting massive sprawling urban centers will be the tangible evidence of our current historical Californian layer; the momentary end of our story. Is it still romantic?

The distinguished panel includes Paul Macarro, Cultural Resources Coordinator, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians; Lisa Woodward, PhD Archivist, Pechanga Cultural Resources Department; Ann Miller, PhD, Historical Researcher, Miller Research Associates; Paul J. Price, Artist and Historian; and Steve Lech, author of *Along the Old Roads*. The program will be moderated by Bob Johnson, assistant city manager of Temecula, and will include the panel discussion, a downtown walking tour and visit to the majestic "Great Oak".

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Thoughts From the Trenches of California Development Permit Processing Time is, in Fact, Money

by Andrew R. Cassano, PLS

Dear Colleagues:

Let's face it: most old cliches are true, with the possible exception of "you can't teach an old dog new tricks." Now, look around objectively. California's development permit processing in most jurisdictions is nothing to brag about. It does not compete well with our friends in adjoining States and countries. The current horrible economy is a good reason and a good time to stop and take an objective look at how we can do better. Retaining a high quality, yet an expedient and predictable planning entitlement process is possible in most jurisdictions.

There are many State and local laws mandating processing time limits, from the Permit Streamlining Act, to Subdivision Map Act, down to various local ordinances. Yet in many cases in many jurisdictions, time limits are not met. When failing to meet processing time limits, there are no real consequences to local government. Yet these lengthy and unpredictable processes discourage investment and business expansions.

As a professional planner, I will not blame planning departments because they've been in impossible positions with budget and staff limitations, occasional political micro-management, and fierce community groups. You know how it goes. If enough people complain about the planning process, the elected decision makers will take the CDA director out into the street and shoot him/her in the head, and say they did something.



No. It's not that easy. Timely processing and strict compliance with legal processing mandates, require a clear commitment that runs from the top to bottom of government and back up. It requires the unwavering resolve of both the public and private sectors. Business and economic development groups have to insist on efficient and reasonably predictable processing and project conditioning. Responsible agencies, interested entities, citizen groups, and individuals have to be advised of the strict time limits for their comments to be legally considered.

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Time is, in Fact, Money

Continued from page 19

Elected officials need to provide clear staff direction and the accompanying resources to implement efficient processing. Staffs need to call on their knowledge and collaborate with the private sector, community groups, and other stake holders to develop systems that achieve timeliness without discouraging public access to the planning process and without deteriorating the quality of projects.

The schedule needs to become the most important thing, and all else must adapt to that priority. Yes, there will be exceptions, when requested or agreed upon when all occasionally see the merits of stopping to deal with an unexpected issue.

Years ago, when my friend and colleague Tom Parilo was Planning Director of Nevada County, the applicant received a schedule with their application packet and checklist: file a complete application by this date and have your approval hearing on that date. Procedures like that do not have to be considered the good old days. I encourage my professional planning colleagues to share ideas can improve the process. The following ideas could help:

- Develop and utilize a master environmental initial study that includes clear thresholds of significance, and standardized mitigation measures for all applications.
- Standardize approval conditions based on existing laws.
- Standardize minimum approval findings based on laws and jurisdictional policies to assist the decision makers and applicants.
- Foster one or more consulting planners to assist staff at the applicant's expense, if outside help is needed to meet time frames. Although the use of consultants can consume staff time for oversight, selection of qualified local consultants that can quickly be trained on your jurisdiction's procedures is possible.
- Eliminate "actual cost" fee schedules in most cases, which encourage a protracted and extended process that can raise money to cope with shrinking agency budgets. Fixed fees can be based on the average processing time and will encourage speed and efficiency.

Consider the 30 day completeness check as the one bite at the apple. If the applicant provided everything on the check list, then feel free to request any special information for the CEQA review, the one part of the process that can't really quite get to a one size fits all checklist.

Mail the initial distribution basics to the public notice list, inviting written comments by a deadline. This will help all get all concerns identified early, before the initial study and the public. Distribute the proposed Negative Declaration information or Notice of Preparation to the public mailing list, too. Comments received can be incorporated into the final mitigation measures and staff report. Early consultation with the neighbors and interested groups helps them participate and avoids their feeling that the project is being "rushed through."

It's not necessary to call or write to the applicant for more information every time a citizen or agency calls the Department. We can state our jurisdiction's values and procedures to concerned citizens and invite them to raise the debate at public hearing. We can anticipate their concerns and discuss them in the staff report. It's important to always keep the applicant advised of concerns and comments so they can work on those issues if they so choose. Hold the public hearing on time and avoid continuances, except by mutual consent of the applicant and decision makers.

We are an innovative State on the leading edge of technology and public policy. We should dare to take the steps needed to put California on the leading edge of high quality, yet timely and predictable project entitlement processing.

Andrew R. Cassano is a professional planner and land surveyor with over 41 years of experience in small town and mountain site regional planning. He was the first official City Planner of Nevada City, California. He is currently CEO of Nevada City Engineering, Inc., providing consulting services to private and public sector clients.

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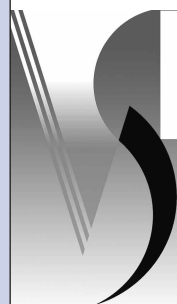
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Mission Possible...Another CPF Fundraising Record!

It's that time of the year again, when planners start making plans to attend the Annual APA California Chapter Conference, and this year's event will be at the Fess Parker Doubletree Resort in Santa Barbara from September 11 - 14. The conference is also the time when the **California Planning Foundation (CPF)** holds its biggest fundraising event for scholarship funds – the **CPF Annual Live and Silent Auction & Raffle!** A record-breaking \$29,000 was raised at last year's event and we'll be making every effort to set another record in 2011. The CPF Scholarship Fund awarded over **\$48,000** in scholarships and APA memberships last year to students enrolled in professional planning degree programs in California so we need your support to maintain this level of effort!!

This year's event is on **Monday, September 12**, with the Silent Auction to begin at 2:30 pm and the Live Auction & Raffle beginning at 7:00 pm.

Please consider making bid item donations to this year's auction! In addition to donating items for the auction block, another way to participate and support the CPF Scholarship Fund is to become a **Friend of CPF**. Please use the form provided to make a donation. For more information and to download a digital version of the donation form, please visit our website: www.californiaplanningfoundation.org. **We'll see you at the auction and don't forget to bring your checkbook, credit cards and cash - and be prepared to have lots of fun!**

2011 CALIFORNIA PLANNING FOUNDATION ANNUAL AUCTION AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Yes! I'd like to participate as follows: (check appropriate box)

☐ Auction Item ☐ Raffle Item Estimated Value: \$ _____

Please provide complete item description below:

☐ Please contact me for pick-up/drop-off options ☐ I will bring item to Santa Barbara

☐ Monetary Donation of \$ _____ (payable to California Planning Foundation)

☐ Friend of CPF (\$300 - please include business card or website link information)

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PLEASE NOTE:

Auction/raffle item descriptions must be submitted by Wednesday, August 31. Delivery of all items must be made to Virginia Viado or Linda Tatum by 5:00 pm Thursday, September 8 (or 10:00 am on Monday, September 12, if delivery is made at the Conference Site).

Thank you

Please return form to:

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