



Bay Watch

Spring 2007

A quarterly bulletin to inform local leaders of subregional progress and alert them to emerging issues

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ACTION ALERT - AB 391 IT'S TIME TO SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR AB 391!!

AB 391, authored by Assemblyman Ted Lieu, will modify the composition of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Board. This is the same legislation as AB 2015 from last year which made it through the Assembly and was pigeon-holed in a Senate Committee. AB 391 will clean up legislation last visited almost 20 years ago by:

- adding one city government representative from Los Angeles County giving 1.5 million people in the 24 smaller cities in LA County's western sector (including ALL of the South Bay cities) the opportunity to be directly represented on the Board.
- moving the cities of Calabasas and Malibu into the western sector giving the City of Los Angeles its own seat on the Board.

WHY ARE CHANGES NEEDED?

SCAQMD Board membership is based on legislation which was passed almost 20 years ago (the sixth change in membership since the agency creation), and reflects population, cities & urban development, and major sources of air quality concern at that time. Representation needs to be increased to respond to the following –

In LA County – 24 smaller cities in the Western Sector (approximately the same population as San Bernardino or Riverside County) are always represented by LA City representatives due to selection rules weighted toward cities with greater population.

Two western-most cities (Calabasas & Malibu) are in the Eastern Sector because they incorporated after the current SCAQMD Board legislation was enacted. No realignment of representation has taken place to match a 28% growth in population.

Across the entire District – almost 30% population growth in the District with the same growth again projected by 2025; corresponding upsurge in traffic, industry, and other sources of air pollution; and an extraordinary increase in rail, truck, air traffic and industry associated with projected growth of 200-300% in Goods Movement

Please contact your legislators as soon as possible to let them know that you support AB 391!

For additional information, contact jacki@southbaycities.org

GLOBAL WARMING – BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

SOUTH BAY ENERGY SAVINGS CENTER YOUR LOCAL ENERGY RESOURCE CENTER

Over the past several months, there has been a tremendous amount of media attention directed toward the potential ramifications of global warming and climate change. In an effort to become a part of the solution, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed into law AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, to address the problem. The South Bay Energy Savings Center is ready to help South Bay residents, businesses and public agencies find ways to become part of the solution.

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The Annenberg Foundation Grant

In 2005, the Annenberg Foundation provided a \$1,067,000 challenge grant towards the acquisition of property in the Portuguese Bend area of the city. The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC) then provided a match of \$4 million in private funding toward the acquisition. While touring the coastal area of Rancho Palos Verdes, Wallis Annenberg was impressed by its beauty and she expressed interest in further assisting the City to think of its remaining undeveloped land as one planning area. In March 2006, the Annenberg Foundation followed through and awarded a grant to the PVPLC to work with the City and create an RPV Vision Plan for the area.

The Vision Plan Project Area

The Vision Plan includes the following key open space areas, which were selected because they are key open space parcels and/or provide public use opportunities:

- The entire Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve
- The Civic Center at Upper Point Vicente
- The Point Vicente Interpretive Center and farm at Lower Point Vicente
- The Point Vicente Lighthouse property (U.S. Government owned)
- Portions of the Terranea property (for trail connection purposes)
- Del Cerro Park
- The 25-acre Active Recreation Area within the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve
- The Coastal Zone (for the purposes of establishing a coastal trail)

The Vision Plan Goal

The Vision Plan's goal is to create a coordinated master plan for the areas noted above, with public access, interpretive materials, recreational amenities and other facilities to improve the recreational and educational experience for both residents

and visitors. The Plan will identify program, design and linkage concepts for the entire area. In addition, the process will consider the possibility of locating an animal care and rescue center on one of the properties, a project of interest to the Annenberg Foundation.

The PUMP Component of the Vision Plan

The Vision Plan also includes the creation of the Public Use Master Plan (PUMP) for the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve. The City's Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) requires the PUMP to be submitted to the resource agencies within 2 years of the NCCP Implementing Agreement being signed by all parties. Preparation of the PUMP will be a major undertaking and the financial assistance provided by the Annenberg grant will be invaluable for completing it within the required time line. To assist with its development, the City Council appointed a PUMP steering committee on June 6, 2006, consisting of 16 community members with various points of view. Melendrez, a landscape architecture and urban planning firm, will take the lead to integrate the existing planning documents, solicit public input and work with the City/PVPLC staff to create the RPV Vision Plan, with oversight provided by a two-member City Council subcommittee.

Current Status of the Vision Plan and PUMP

The design team is working on developing Vision Plan options. The PUMP Committee is meeting regularly. It has identified trails to be included in the official trails plan and it will be addressing trailhead locations and amenities. A public hearing on all of the recommendations is anticipated at the end of the summer.

For further information about the RPV Vision Plan, contact Planning Director Joel Rojas at 310-544-5228 or joelr@rpv.com, or Barbara Dye with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy at 310-541-7613 or barbaradye@cox.net. To receive any future public hearing notices via e-mail, please access the City's website at www.palosverdes.com/rpv.



A view of the Trump Bridge

2007 SBCCOG 8TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY - MOBILITY OPTIONS FOR THE SOUTH BAY

Attendance and enthusiasm were the highest yet as SBCCOG members and guests heard from experts on transportation options for the South Bay. Speakers included: Senators Lowenthal and Oropeza, Assemblyman Lieu, Supervisor Knabe, California Transportation Commission Executive Director John Barna, UCLA Professor Brian Taylor and experts in the transit and personal mobility options field.



SBCCOG THANKS OUR SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE.

THE SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THANKS THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE 8TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GOLDEN CIRCLE - \$5000

Los Angeles County Metro
Port of Los Angeles
Time Warner

PATRONS - \$3000

Chevron Products Company
El Camino College Business
Training Center
Northrop Grumman

BENEFACTORS - \$1000 OR OVER

Beach Reporter, Daily Breeze
and Peninsula News
ESRI
HDR One
Iteris

Laidlaw
Mar Ventures, Inc.
Segway
Southern California Edison

The Gas Company
Union Pacific Railroad
VPSI
Watson Land Company

list continues on page 4

In response to the impacts of red tides in the harbor and failing grades on Heal the Bay's "Annual Beach Report Cards," the Redondo Beach Mayor and City Council enlisted residents, business owners, and other stakeholders in a "Water Quality Task Force." The mission of this empowered volunteer group was to study water quality issues and recommend a plan to mitigate them, thereby preserving the quality of our harbor and beaches.

The Water Quality Task Force quickly settled on five main objectives ranging from short to long term: development of an action plan to solve immediate water quality concerns; development of a long-term "Clean Harbor" plan; development of a community outreach and public education program; research of funding opportunities; and implementation of a long-term harbor volunteer program to deal with emergencies such as red tides.

The City took the role of facilitator and encouraged the Water Quality Task Force to follow each and every lead and idea. For example, water quality recommendations discussed by the students involved in the Chamber of Commerce "Leader for a Day" program were reviewed by the Water Quality Task Force and incorporated into the final Task Force report. Researchers and specialists were invited to make presentations to the Water Quality Task Force, where an open and candid dialogue was encouraged. Cutting edge water quality testing procedures were considered and included in the recommendations.

During their research and exploration of the very complex issues of ocean water contamination and its causes, the Water Quality Task Force formed an alliance with scientists from the University of Southern California and a cooperative network with surrounding coastal cities. The Water Quality Task Force's outreach efforts to the scientific and academic communities, as well as state and regional agencies, have already resulted in innovative pilot programs and grant funding for water quality projects.



Redondo Beach Harbor

The Water Quality Task Force's recommendations were compiled in a 118-page report in July 2006. The recommendations, including 33 projects ranging from education to enforcement and harbor equipment purchases to formation of emergency response teams, now form the basis of the City's water quality work plan for 2007 and the future.

The Water Quality Task Force serves as a model in Redondo Beach for solving community issues through collaboration. The lessons learned in Redondo Beach can have broad application in virtually any community. They include:

- Involving the youth of your community, educational institutions, and scientific and technological groups as partners helps local governments achieve innovative solutions that extend far beyond the abilities of local government resources.
- A philosophy of openness and transparency brings greater understanding and broader ownership and accountability for community problems. It also allows the government to take a role as educator and facilitator.
- Creating a task force with autonomy and clear objectives that can be achieved within one year is a good way to bring positive attention and focus to difficult community issues. Again, the City's role as facilitator is crucial.

The City recently re-affirmed the benefits of utilizing this innovative management practice through the adoption of the newly formed "Green Task Force." By enlisting the help of residents, businesses, youth, educational institutions, and scientific and technological groups, the City hopes to once again facilitate innovation well beyond its own resources and foster a greater understanding and ownership of environmental issues by community members.

For more information on the Water Quality Task Force, please visit the City's Web site at www.redondo.org/waterquality

SPONSORS - \$500 OR OVER

California Space Authority
California Water Service
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Continental Development Corporation
Cox Communications
Golden State Water Company
League of California Cities

MWW Group
Pacific Municipal Consultants
Torrance Memorial
Water Replenishment District
West Basin Municipal Water District

With special thanks to the City of Carson for hosting the event & to the City of El Segundo for producing the SBCCOG video!

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The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 states “Under existing law, the State Air Resources Board (State Board), the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission), and the California Climate Action Registry all have responsibilities with respect to the control of emissions of greenhouse gases, as defined, and the Secretary for Environmental Protection is required to coordinate emission reductions of greenhouse gases and climate change activity in state government.”

State agencies currently are developing the regulations that will become the body of this Act. South Bay Energy Savings Center will keep you informed as the regulations are developed and will assist you in determining how best to incorporate mitigating practices into your businesses, homes and public agencies.

“What is climate change?”

The global climate is being altered by greenhouse gases (GHGs) which have become trapped in the earth’s atmosphere. GHGs trap heat by blocking some of the long-wave energy (heat from the sun) which the Earth normally radiates back into space. The resulting change in atmospheric energy balance affects both weather and climate.

What are greenhouse gases (GHGs)?

Although many GHGs occur in nature, human activity is responsible for doubling the “natural” GHGs in the atmosphere as well as for adding human-made GHGs into the equation..

- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a natural compound produced by humans through the combustion of fossil fuels (petroleum, coal, natural gas) and wood.
- Methane (CH₄) is a natural compound produced from landfills, natural gas pipelines, animal digestive processes, and agriculture.
- Nitrous oxide (N₂O) is produced by the combustion of fossil fuels and organic materials, soil cultivation, use of nitrogen fertilizers and nitric acid production.
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) are human-made chemical compounds found in air conditioning units and refrigeration systems.
- Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF₆) is a human-made compound used in electricity transmission and distribution systems.

At the South Bay Energy Savings Center, we are solution-oriented and provide information to businesses, residents and public agencies about the methods and technologies available to help you become more energy efficient. Becoming more energy efficient can greatly reduce use of fossil fuels that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

Participation can be as simple as replacing each burned out incandescent light bulb in your home or business with a compact fluorescent. It is estimated by the California Energy Commission that if all Californians replaced their incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents (CFL), the reduction in emissions would be equivalent to as much as that emitted by two gas-fired power plants! In fact, attend one of our workshops or attend one of our exhibits and receive a free CFL and start saving energy today. Our CFL’s are given away on a first-come, first-served basis.

It’s not too late to learn all you can about being more energy efficient. Plan to attend a workshop at the center, or call 310-543-3022 to arrange for an energy efficiency workshop for your business, staff, homeowners group or community/service organization. We are planning our annual calendar and would very much like to include your group.

Workshops we are offering this year include Energy 101/Remodeling, Green Building - How Do I Get Started?, Green Building Policy, Title 24, LEED Workshops for Businesses, as well as an Energy Efficiency Workshop for apartment building owners/managers and Water Wise Landscaping Workshops in collaboration with our water agencies. Check the calendar section of our website at www.sbesc.com for dates and on-line registration.

Our local utilities and water agencies have provided a variety of rebates and incentives for you to take advantage of in 2007. Don’t forget that water conservation can be a significant first step in saving energy. Please visit the South Bay Energy Savings Center website at www.sbesc.com or drop into the Center Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 5:00 to pick up some useful information, enjoy our displays and our lending library of books and tools.

There is also Direct Assistant Program (DAP) that offers eligible, income-qualified renters and home owners free energy-saving home improvements. Improvements may include ceiling insulation, door weather stripping, caulking, low-flow showerheads, water heater blankets and minor repairs to exterior doors and windows. In addition, eligible homeowners may receive limited appliance repair or replacement services. For more information, call the DAP hotline at 1-800-331-7593.

By being informed, you are not only enhancing the quality of life on our planet, but you are reducing your energy expenses as well.

Remember - Save Water, Save Energy and Save Money! 

Food *for* Thought

HOW CAN WE KEEP BUSINESSES HERE IN THE SOUTH BAY AND ATTRACT NEW ONES?

Active programs to attract new employers to their area are popping up all over. Most states and many individual communities have them. The quality of a local workforce consistently ranks in the top three criteria for deciding the location of a new business. But what is the quality of the current workforce? Numerous surveys have demonstrated a gap between the current workforce and the basic skills needs of employers. The American Management Association has stated that 36% of new hires do not have the basic math and reading skills required for their jobs. As a result, American businesses will soon be spending more than \$25 billion per year on remedial training programs for new employees.

In order to reduce the cost of remedial training and lost efficiency, more and more companies are taking it upon themselves to implement pre-employment assessments. But what if we could:

- Get ahead of the curve and identify those skills that the job seeker needs to improve?
- Train them before they meet the prospective employer?
- Communicate the (improved) skills levels of the job seeker?
- Advertise that the South Bay has a highly skilled workforce?

A work ready or employability certificate is a means for establishing a system for addressing these issues of quantifying, improving and communicating the basic skills of the workforce. It also satisfies and helps manage several of the needs of the modern workforce economy:

- The increasing skills needs of the job market

- The gap between the skills of the existing workforce and newly created jobs
- The need to assist employers in order to be competitive in a world market
- The need to assist the workforce in finding meaningful employment
- The competitiveness of a region's economy to attract new employers and retain existing companies.

The El Camino College Business Training Center, The South Bay Economic Development Partnership and the South Bay WIB are starting the Work Ready Certificate program offered at no charge to local employers and job applicants.

The Work Ready Certificate is based on the WorkKeys system, a nationally-recognized job analysis, skills assessment and training program that measures an individual's skills and the competency levels required for successful job performance. The Certificate will document the applicant's competency in Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information and Locating Information. Choosing between two candidates with equal experience where one has this credential now becomes an easy decision.

For more information on how your company can benefit from the Work Ready Certificate, please call Melanie Sharp in the Business Training Center at (310) 973-3143.

CALENDAR

All meetings are open to the public

APRIL

- 9-Steering Committee
- 17-Legislative Committee
- 18-Livable Communities Working Group
- 25-Infrastructure Working Group
- 26-Homeland Security Task Force
- 26-Board of Directors**

MAY

- 14-Steering Committee
- 15-Legislative Committee
- 16-Livable Communities Working Group
- 23-Infrastructure Working Group
- 24-Board of Directors**

JUNE

- 11-Steering Committee
- 19-Legislative Committee
- 20-Livable Communities Working Group
- 27-Infrastructure Working Group
- 28-Board of Directors**

Contact jacki@southbaycities.org for further information