



ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS  
BAY AREA CHAPTER

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

April 16<sup>th</sup> 2009



DCE

1625 SHATTUCK AVENUE, SUITE 300  
BERKELEY, CA 94709  
(PASSCODE 2031)

6:00pm

1. Updates –
  - a. Programs (See Leslie/Emmas updates)
  - b. Social Events (See Tammys Update)
  - c. Legislative (new Legislative Info page:  
<http://www.califaep.org/content.asp?pid=69>)
  - d. Student Chapters/Events
  - e. Treasurer
2. CEQA Workshops:
  - a. Review of April workshops
  - b. Future Coordination?
  - c.
3. Chapter Conference Debrief
4. Chapter Revenue
  - a. Advertising (Web, Newsletter)
  - b. Sponsorship
  - c. Scholarships (Fundraising?)
  - d. Programs
5. Young Environmental Professional Group
  - a. Geoff/Holly/Jenny/Frankie
6. Ongoing Meeting dates – Third Thurs? Tues?
  - a. Strategic Planning Board Meeting w/ K. Norton
  - b. May 21<sup>st</sup>

If time is available – Chapter Communications – how best to coordinate website updates, social networking sites, email blasts, etc. Also – the Conference Google Group as a potential Chapter Board Member site for posting documents etc.



## SF Bay Area AEP Chapter Updates – April 2009

1. (Megan Marruffo) – The HSU AEP Student Chapter is off and running. They've held 3 meetings to date and held nominations and elections for officers (President: Robert Steffes, Vice President/Secretary: Nasley Proa, and Treasure: Brian Keeler). They are focusing on recruiting more members to the Student Chapter and getting the club well-established on campus. They are planning their final club meeting of the semester and are looking at inviting local environmental professional(s) to come and speak. The HSU Student Chapter was asking for help in this endeavor and whether the Board has any contacts in the Humboldt area that would potentially be willing to speak at their meeting.
2. (Jessica Veramontes) - Newsletter: Next edition is in June. I'll send out an email in a week or so asking for articles by May 22. Student Chapters: USF: Jenny Lovell is graduating, so we'll be working together to find a new student representative. We have an opportunity to go to the school on Earth Day to promote AEP and generate student interest. Jenny is also helping me develop a possible connection with some faculty members. Berkeley: Jessica Rothery, our rep with ESSA, will continue to coordinate with us when they need speakers or have ideas for events. SJSU: I'm going to meet with Laura Gurney next weekend, who may be interested in taking over the student rep spot. She's already an APA student rep for a club on campus.
3. (Leslie Garlinghouse/Emma Jack) – Programs: **Event: Asia Society Northern California; Scaling Up: From Green Buildings to Green Cities in the US and China**  
*\*Co-Sponsorship with Asia Society Northern California and Bay Area Council*  
*Date: May 1, 2009*  
*Venue: PG&E Auditorium*  
*Planner: Asia Society/Emma (Emma has largely completed the planning for this)*  
**Emma will attend this conference as well.**  
  
**Event: Project Management for EIRs** taught by Amy Skewes-Cox  
*\*APA Co-Sponsorship (AICP Credits)*  
  
*Date: Coordinating with Amy for May/June*  
*Venue: TBD*  
*Planner: Leslie (Planning underway)*  
  
**Event: CEQA Streamlining for Economic Stimulus Projects – Shabnam Barati and Caltrans Deputy Director** (panel from conference)  
*Date: Coordinating with Shabnam for June/July*  
*Venue: Caltrans?*  
*Planner: Leslie (Planning underway)*  
  
**Event: Sonoma State University Green Building Certificate Program**  
*\*APA Co-Sponsorship (AICP Credits)*  
*Date: Terri coordinating this for June/July*  
*Venue: North Bay Program*  
*Planner: Terri McCracken (Planning underway)*

*Event: Another Gary Jakobs Workshop Program - Discussions started this week to work out the topic.*

*\*APA Co-Sponsorship (AICP Credits)*

*Date: Coordinating with Gary for ~June*

*Venue: Likely Oakland City Hall*

*Planner: Leslie (Planning underway)*

**Event: Quarterly State Capital Update**

*\*APA Lobbyist, Sande George, Speaking*

*\*APA Co-Sponsorship*

*Date: Coordinating with Sande for ~May*

*Venue: TBD (DC&E or URS Office?)*

*Planner: Leslie (Planning underway)*

Otherwise, we have more tentative planning efforts for Bay Delta Vision Process, LEED Certification, SB375, Caltrans Bridge Tour (seasonal, but now back in season), SF/OAK Bicycle Plan EIRs, and Green Speeding.

Also, I'm coordinating with Laura Worthington-Forbes to plan the next south bay program now that the conference is over. I'll send an update on this idea when it's defined better.

Finally, we need to start the planning for Summer AEP Round Tables around the Bay. I think that's a good idea to get going.

4. (Tammy Dorje) – Ferry Building Tasting Tour – Wed April 29<sup>th</sup>, \$20 for AEP Members. Email blast has been sent. Reservations due by Fri April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 5.

**CHAPTER OFFICER SUMMIT – MARCH 14, 2009 (REVISED\*)**  
(before the '09 State Conference)

- 8 am – 11:30 am                      State Board meeting (before summit)
- 11:30 am – 12:15 pm                Lunch (state board and chapter officers) with introductions
- 12:15 pm – 12:30 pm                Review of current state goals (“A’s” and “P’s”)

**POTENTIAL LIST OF TOPICS**

- 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm  
(20 min per topic)
- \*\* NEED TO  
PRIORITIZE  
AND SELECT  
WHAT TOPICS  
TO DISCUSS\*\***
- \_\_\_ Retaining/expanding members during recession
  - \_\_\_ Officer retention and recruitment (“burnout”)
  - \_\_\_ Workshop profit distribution
  - \_\_\_ Membership/conference fee discounts for unemployed
  - \_\_\_ How to encourage student members/chapters
  - \_\_\_ Solicit input into “Chapter Officer’s Handbook”  
(distribute in advance)
  - \_\_\_ Overcoming geographic limitations of chapter areas
  - \_\_\_ Low chapter balances or small chapters
  - \_\_\_ Website problems/fixes and expansion
  - \_\_\_ State needs help reviewing “Code of Ethics”
  - \_\_\_ State needs help identifying “Emerging Issues”
  - \_\_\_ Chapter interactions with community

**\*\* Other Topics from the Chapters? \*\***

- 3:30 pm – 3:45 pm                      Break
- 3:45 pm – 5 pm                        Divide into officer groups
- 5 pm – 5:30 pm                        All officers regroup and discuss additional items  
and provide input on prioritizing existing state goals
- 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm                      President’s Reception for all officers
- 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm                      State Board meeting continues if needed  
(dinner and review summit input)

\* Original 1/26/09 - Revised 2/10/09 (moved start time from 10 am to 11:30 am)



## COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS

Join CGF for an evening with Richard Jackson, M.D., M.P.H., Chair and Professor, Environmental Health Sciences, UCLA and co-author of *Urban Sprawl & Public Health: Designing, Building and Planning for Healthy Communities*.



Richard J. Jackson has done extensive work in the impact of the environment on health, particularly relating to children. Dr. Jackson chaired the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health. He has done extensive work on pesticides in California, and has also focused on epidemiology, infectious diseases and toxicology. Over the past decade much of his work has focused on the 'built environment' including how architecture and urban planning affect health. He recently served on the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects and has written and spoken extensively in the above areas. Currently, Dr. Jackson is working on policy analyses of environmental impacts on health ranging from toxicology, chemical body burdens, terrorism, sustainability, climate change, urban design and architecture. In addition, he is

developing policy analyses in related areas, such as how farm, education, housing, and transportation policies affect health.

"Suburban sprawl is killing us. Increasingly, physicians, public health officials, planners, and designers recognize the relationships between our health and our built surroundings. *Urban Sprawl and Public Health* offers a cogent diagnosis of this health menace as well as timely prescriptions for healing our cities." (Frederick Steiner dean, School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin)

When: March 5th, 2009  
Wine and Cheese Social at  
6:30pm  
Author Talk at 7:00pm

Please RSVP:  
[Wendee@greenfoothills.org](mailto:Wendee@greenfoothills.org)  
or (650) 968-7243 x314

Where: Santa Clara University  
Benson Memorial Center  
California Mission Room  
500 El Camino Real  
Santa Clara, CA

Cost: \$10 for admission only  
\$40 Book and Admission  
\$5 Admission Only ,Student ID

## **Student Meet and Greet with Local Professionals Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, this event aims to connect students and local environmental professionals in a laid back setting. Any students, whether or not they are volunteering or attending the conference, are welcome to drop by to ask questions and seek advice from professionals who will have a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and careers.

Considering the wide range of possibilities for students entering the workforce, the professionals will discuss their specialties and provide recommendations for students to excel in a stable career path. Possible subjects to be discussed include the following:

- How to get into an environmental job from a recruiter's perspective
- Skills needed for the environmental field
- Organizations environmental professionals belong to
- Latest trends in planning jobs
- Differences between local government and private sector employment
- Certification and advancement as an environmental professional

Local professionals in attendance will include:

[[This is where we'll seek the help of the Chapter Board and the conference committee in asking 5-10 professionals to attend who are from the public and private sectors, entry level and more experienced, different specialties, etc.]]

Timing: 4:45pm – 6:15pm on Sunday, March 15

[[This is after the last workshop ends and will only make people a little late to the opening reception. We're open to suggestions about adjusting timing]]

## New Speaker – Monday Plenary

### Gray Brechin, PhD



Dr. Gray Brechin is the author of *Farewell, Promised Land: Waking from the California Dream* and the best-selling *Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin* (both U.C. Press), the latter a study of the environmental devastation wrought via remote control technology by legendary cities throughout history for the benefit of their ruling elites. He is especially interested in the role of mining in imperial city-building and the growth of capitalism.

Formerly a journalist and TV producer in San Francisco, Brechin received his doctorate in 1998 from the U.C. Berkeley Department of Geography. There he is currently a visiting scholar and founder of a collaborative effort sponsored by the California Historical Society and the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment to inventory and map the cumulative impact of New Deal public works upon California. While revealing the enduring but largely invisible contributions made by President Franklin Roosevelt's construction agencies during the Great Depression, California's Living New Deal Project (<http://livingnewdeal.berkeley.edu>) simultaneously discloses the necessary role played by the public domain in a healthy democracy.

## Latest Capitol Update

# Association of Environmental Professionals January 2009 Capital Snapshot A Recap of Capital Affairs thru February 2 February 3, 2009

Allan Lind, AEP Lobbyist, lindallan@yahoo.com

Top stories of January in the Capital:

- *Will CEQA exemptions pave the way for the Governor's Economic Stimulus Plan?*
- *How long will the "bond freeze" last?*
- *What's next for OPR's Proposed Amendments to the CEQA Guidelines?*

The Capital began the New Year preoccupied with two gigantic and interrelated crises: the effects of the national economic tail-spin on California's economy and the state's \$42 billion budget deficit – the largest deficit in decades. The Governor's has proposed a massive recovery plan, including an economic stimulus plan and a state budget recovery plan spread over 18 months. Both require the cooperation of the Legislature. Political ideologies, regrettably, but not unexpectedly, divide the Legislature and seemingly paralyze the recovery process. While no one can believe the political divide will last long enough to push California into bankruptcy, the state is certainly headed in that direction.

It's no surprise that our political ideologies support fundamentally different solutions to the state's economic and fiscal crises.

On the one hand, the building blocks for an economic stimulus plan include relaxing labor standards in the business sector, rolling back environmental regulations, providing tax incentives for consumers and businesses, and creating new jobs through infrastructure investment with the help of CEQA exemptions to speed up construction projects (that would be the right hand, politically speaking). On the other hand, the economic stimulus plan needs to accelerate infrastructure investments without compromising environmental protections, target infrastructure investments so as to build a foundation for the green technologies and green jobs of the future, and reinforcing the safety net for the families of employees laid off due to the economy (that would be the left hand, politically speaking).

On the right hand, balancing the state budget means living within your means (i.e., massive budget cuts), structural reforms for the future (e.g., eliminating annual "auto-pilot" spending increases), and "no new taxes." On the left hand, balancing the state budget means significant one-time budget cuts, structural reforms for the future (e.g., majority vote to pass the state budget instead of the current 2/3 vote requirement), and new revenues.

So who blinks first? On the one hand, the California Republican Party will vote later this month on a resolution to effectively excommunicate any Republican legislator who votes for a tax increase. On the other hand, organized labor has declared they will finance the recall of any Democrat legislator who votes for measures that would undermine labor protection laws and the jobs and wages of teachers and public employees.

Environmental professionals are affected by these political dynamics as much as any profession. Among the more prickly concerns for environmental professionals is the treatment of CEQA in the Governor's economic stimulus plan and the recent loss of state funding for environmental protection projects. Environmental professionals will also be interested in a new set of proposed amendments to the CEQA Guidelines. The AEP Legislative Review Committee and friends produced position letters on these three topics in the last few weeks. Watch the AEP Web site for the text of these letters.

### CEQA and the Governor's Economic Stimulus Plan

When the Governor announced his economic stimulus Plan in December, he counted on CEQA exemptions for \$800 million worth of highway projects as an indispensable feature of the plan. The administration argued that the CEQA exemptions were "needed" because of the economic crisis we're in.

In the economic stimulus plan passed by the Legislature, the Governor's CEQA exemption provisions were replaced by a CEQA-like streamlined environmental review process. The Governor vetoed the legislative plan because of its failure to accord a full CEQA exemption to the highway projects he proposed.

In a letter to the Governor and legislative leaders dated January 21, 2009, AEP President Kent Norton expressed AEP's opposition to the Governor's proposed CEQA exemptions. AEP is particularly concerned that the Governor's proposal ends up reinforcing a bad policy: when there's a crisis, suspend CEQA (see, for example, The Governor's insistence on CEQA exemptions for certain designated projects during the 2006 "infrastructure crisis").

No one can quarrel with the existence of our economic crisis. The economic benefit of these CEQA exemptions in stemming the downward spiral of the state's economy is, however, not as clear cut. The January 21 letter noted that the economic benefits of the \$37+ billion bond package of 2006 are just now catching their stride, contributing in their own way to stimulating the economy. According to the Treasurer's Office, there are \$18 billion in capital outlay projects at a standstill for lack of the state's cash flow, which is caused by the state's budget crisis – fix the budget crisis and \$18 billion in projects in the pipeline become "shovel ready." Moreover, the Governor recently reported to President Barack Obama the existence of \$44 billion in projects, many of which are not subject to CEQA, that are ready to start construction or place orders as soon as the President's national economic recovery package is enacted by the Congress. Finally, AEP noted the important fact that the CEQA process is the only process at this time for determining appropriate measures to mitigate the impact of these transportation projects on climate change and global warming.

## **The Bond Freeze**

The state's cash flow is the state budget's canary in the coalmine. In December, the State Treasurer and the State Controller and the Governor's Director of Finance were all in agreement: the state's cash flow is upside-down. Unable to pay the bills, the Treasurer, Controller and Director of Finance, acting as the Pooled Money Investment Board (PMIB), voted to suspend all disbursements for bond-funded projects until the state's cash flow shows signs of recovery. The Director of Finance, in turn, directed all state agencies responsible for bond-funded projects to issue stop-work orders to their contractors and vendors.

Sometimes referred to as the "AB 55 Freeze,"<sup>ii</sup> these stop-work orders have crippled projects throughout the state, including the work of environmental professionals particularly on habitat and ecological restoration projects. AEP is concerned that the curtailment of such projects may lead to irreversible biological and ecological damage.

In a letter dated January 21, 2009, AEP President Kent Norton urged the Director of Finance to restore funding for environmental projects necessary for the protection of public health and safety, especially in cases where a stop-work order can lead to long term and irreversible consequences.

## **OPR's CEQA Guidelines**

SB 97 of 2007 directed OPR to develop, by January 1, 2009, CEQA guidelines for incorporating greenhouse gas emissions into CEQA documents. OPR's proposed amendments to the CEQA Guidelines reached a next-to-final draft stage at the end of January. In a letter dated February 2, 2009, AEP President Kent Norton submitted formal comments on those draft amendments. The AEP position on the draft amendments was developed by a joint effort of the AEP Legislative Review Committee (Gene Talmadge, Chair) and AEP's ad hoc Climate Change Committee (Michael Hendrix, Chair).

AEP supports OPR's efforts to date and makes suggestions for further improvements. By the end of this month OPR's final recommendations on amendments to the CEQA Guidelines will be presented to the Secretary for Resources who will, in turn, initiate a formal regulatory proceeding on the proposed amendments. The Secretary has until January, 2010 to adopt final regulations implementing SB 97 and AEP intends on being a part of that process.

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