

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 - DINNER MEETING

Return to DD
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MB
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"Now that you've cut city budgets, how do you pay for growth?"

The Good Table Restaurant
2600 Bancroft Way
Berkeley
(415) 548-4871

(r.s.v.p. to Joan Lamphier or call her for information at (415) 451-8046, leave message)

...wherein we will discuss the Planning Roundtable's first major report on the cost and assignment of urban infrastructure. While no-growth and water resources have been discussed at length, and many jurisdictions have employed everything from the Laffer curve to massive fees to cover costs, this is the beginning of a new era when municipalities and service districts, like their private enterprise counterparts, must begin to charge for development based on cost and overhead in order to avoid bankruptcy. Since the New Rules dictate that environmental impacts must pass the cost-benefit test, then so must development. Be with us for a delightful meal and a spicy debate! (See related article, next page.)

(Note: The Peripheral Canal discussion is being rescheduled to more closely coincide with the ballot vote. That initiative has been delayed June to "later this year," and we intend to record the debate for use in a video production as a public service to ourselves and the General Public. Stay tuned!)

RSVP by May 15, 1981

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\$10-

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
DAY PHONE _____

mail to: Lamphier & Associates, 853 York Street,
Oakland, CA 94610



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california chapter american planning association
po box 2104 san jose' 95109

vol. 3 no. 2

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 - PICNIC ON ANGEL ISLAND 2

Good food and drink, stimulating conversation with other planners, and a pleasant day at Angel Island State Park... our Spring Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 14 at the Ayala Cove, near the ferry docking area.

A nominal fee of \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children will help us provide picnickers with charcoal and beverages (wine, beer and soft drinks) which will be available at the site.

Angel Island is accessible by private boat or ferry service from both San Francisco and Tiburon, and offers hiking trails, beautiful natural woodlands and views of the Bay Area, as well as playgrounds and other recreational facilities.

We have reserved space on the 10:00 a.m. ferry from San Francisco (Fisherman's Wharf) so that we can be assured of tagging enough picnic tables. Round trip fare is \$5.25 adults, \$2.75 for children.

Ferry service is also available from Tiburon at \$2.50 round trip. If you plan on joining us, please mail your reservation check (made out to APA) for beverages and charcoal no later than May 22. If you would like to take the 10:00 a.m. ferry from San Francisco, please include your round trip fare with your check.

mail to: APA
c/o Don Bules
Dept. of City Planning
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

PICNIC: ___adults @ \$5.00 ea. = ___
 ___child @ \$3.00 ea. = ___
TICKETS: ___adults @ \$5.25 ea. = ___
 ___child @ \$2.75 ea. = ___ } TOTAL _____

Call Don for more information at (415) 558-4541.

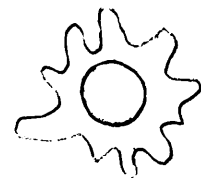
(Tiburon or your own boat, no charge!)

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

June 19 -- Cal Chapter Workshop

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SOLAR



Friday, June 19, 1981
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
\$10.00

Subject: Subdividing for Maximum Solar Usage

Location: Palo Alto Cultural Center 1313 Newell Road
(Highway 101, exit Embarcadero west; parking
available at the corner of Newell and Embarcadero)

This workshop is intended to educate both local government officials and professional builders in the design and evaluation of subdivision designs that maximize the use of solar energy. Contact Ken Schreiber, City of Palo Alto, 425 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 93406, (415) 329-2321.

AWARDS PROGRAM

As most of you now know, the Section is again sponsoring its annual awards competition. The competition has been established to provide recognition for outstanding planning programs and to honor individuals (both professionals and non-professionals) who have made distinguished contributions to planning. Submit significant planning work that your department completed during the past year for consideration for a Meritorious Program Award. You can also nominate individuals who might be eligible for distinguished service or outstanding contributions awards.

Details regarding the various awards categories and the procedures to be followed in preparing and submitting nominations are indicated on the announcement which appeared in the March issue of California Planner. Nominations will be due at the section level May 15, 1981. Outstanding winners at the section level will be forwarded to the State Chapter and on to the National Awards Program.

For further information, please call the section awards coordinator, Christine Haw, of the San Francisco Department of City Planning, at (415) 558-4541.

YOU ARE INVITED ...

...to the May 20th Northern Section meeting to hear and discuss an interesting new case study of San Diego and Santa Clara counties prepared by the California Planning Roundtable. This meeting marks the beginning of a new series of regular Northern Section meetings.

Don de la Peña, currently Industrial Development Director of Ruth and Going, Inc., of San Jose, and until recently Principal Planner for the City of San Jose, will be the featured speaker. He will present the findings of the Roundtable's study examining a most disturbing trend: urban areas find it increasingly difficult to absorb new development due to an inability to finance needed capital improvements. This situation is now clearly impacting primary industries and community lifestyles.

The study examines new and old mechanisms for dealing with this problem. Particularly emphasized are the growing demands for both large-scale regional service facilities and public awareness of the hard choices these times demand -- and also the consequences of those choices.

To tweak our curiosity and alert us to the important issues to be discussed, Don has sent along these excerpts from the study's conclusion:

Future fiscal planning for public facility provision will undoubtedly make use of many new -- and some old -- mechanisms which attempt to assign costs as directly as possible to those who benefit from a particular service or facility. This strategy depends upon much greater private sector involvement in what used to be largely public sector activities. It also depends on much greater local initiative, both public and private, in making sure needed local facilities are built and existing facilities are operated in the most efficient way possible.

A crucial element in both the cause and potential solution of the fiscal crisis now surrounding the provision of basic services and facilities is public awareness. As one planner noted, the public is entitled to say "no more," but it is crucial that they also know the consequences liable to follow such a decision. The public has little way of learning about the critical needs documented in this report until not meeting these needs affects their lives and livelihood. Efficient and equitable solutions to the funding crisis need to be devised through cooperation of those in and out of government. A means to inform the public of the real meaning of such solutions and the need for them, must also be devised to create a public dialogue.

The goal of the Roundtable organization that prepared this study is to actively involve planners in discussing problems, developing solutions, achieving public-private cooperation, and informing the public about critical problems and choices to be made. Obviously, they consider your input essential to their goal. (The California Planning Roundtable was founded in 1980 by twenty-five leaders in the planning community, drawn from both the public and private sectors.)

Don de la Peña and the Roundtable bring this new study to you for your ideas and response. To encourage spirited discussion, several "commenters" from both public and private organizations have been asked to share their reaction. Copies of the report will be available at the meeting. Don't miss what promises to be a lively and thought-provoking meeting on a topic which affects us all.

— final —



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Deputy - *John W. Henssley*
Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator - Anne M. Gorsuch

KNOW YOUR NUCLEAR REACTORS

3. HIGH TEMPERATURE GAS-COOLED REACTOR. A further evolution of the gas-cooled reactor concepts to yet higher temperatures can be achieved by using helium gas coolant and fuel with a ceramic coating instead of metal cladding. Known variously as the HTGR, HTR or MK III gas-cooled reactor, the system has been developed internationally by the OECD Dragon Project and in the USA. A variant known as the Thorium High Temperature Reactor (THTR) has been developed separately in Germany, using a novel pebble bed core concept. The first commercial stations of this type have been ordered in the USA for operation around 1980. Enriched uranium fuel, in the form of small spheres of uranium carbide, is coated with layers of graphite and silicon carbide to form coated particles which need no further cladding to retain radioactive fission products. The coated particles are packed into axial cavities in hexagonal blocks of graphite which are loaded into the reactor as combined fuel elements and moderator blocks. Axial channels through the fuel-moderator blocks allow the coolant gas to pass down through the core. It is then circulated up through the helical steam generators in the pods of a concrete pressure vessel around the core. US designers envisage off-load fueling during a shut down period of about two weeks once a year but the British designers are considering on-load fueling systems similar to that used in the AGR and Magnox stations. Two types of fuel cycle, known as high enrichment and low enrichment schemes, are possible with HTGRs. In the first of these fuel enriched to give 80 or 90 percent of uranium-235 is mixed with thorium carbide coated particles. During operation the thorium is converted to uranium-235 which is a highly efficient nuclear fuel and can be recovered during reprocessing of the fuel. The low enrichment scheme uses 4 to 5 percent of uranium-235 and some of the remaining 95 to 96 percent of uranium 238 is converted during operation to plutonium, which is another recoverable fuel material. The inherent safety of the concrete pressure vessels makes the need for a special containment building, in the view of some designers, unnecessary. The first commercial stations in the USA will, however, have containment buildings mainly to ease licensing procedures. There is considerable interest in the process heat applications of the HTGR such as coal gasification and steelmaking and in the further development of the HTGR using direct cycle gas turbines instead of the conventional steam cycle.

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Authorization to reprint articles contained in this newsletter must be granted in writing from the APA Northern Section. Materials submitted for publication immediately become the property of APA Northern Section and may be edited, rewritten or ignored to conform to size, style or editorial policy. Concise, well-written articles have the greatest chance of being published.

TO THE EDITOR:

- The publication of the "Barbecued Dog Box-Lunch" article in the February-March issue of the APA Northern Section Newsletter displayed an appalling lack of good judgment. It was an article more appropriate to the National Enquirer or some racist publication aimed at fomenting hostility toward Southeast Asian refugees. Its inclusion in the Newsletter does not reflect well upon the Newsletter staff, APA, or those of us who are members of APA.

While that specific article is of particular concern to me, I am even more concerned about the increasing number of esoteric, irrelevant, or otherwise off-the-wall items that have been appearing in the Newsletter. If the purpose of this editorial direction is to make a satirical statement about the pompous, self-serving and/or irrelevant nature of much of what appears in other professional planning publications, I share that sentiment. But I seriously question whether now is a time when we can afford to be publishing a National Lampoon for planners.

We are in the midst of a national budget cutting frenzy in which planning programs face major funding cutbacks at all levels of government. It is a time when our professional associations should be working vigorously to increase public awareness of the potential importance of planning to the solution of the country's economic, social, and environmental problems. Part of that effort should include the publication in our newsletters of thought-provoking articles and position statements that can be distributed to local, state, and federal decisionmakers who will be proposing and/or implementing budget cuts.

When you get right down to it, as planners, the basic commodity we have to sell is our intelligence, good judgment, and problem-solving ability. If the editorial content of the publications of our professional organization doesn't reflect those qualities, then we would probably be better off not to waste money printing them.

Quite frankly, I would be embarrassed to show the last issue of the Newsletter to any of the local officials in my county, or even to the community organizations which have traditionally supported our planning efforts. I don't believe their confidence in the competence or thoughtfulness of the planning profession would be enhanced.

I don't want this letter to be a totally negative assault on the Newsletter. Much of what it contains is relevant and useful information. But I don't feel it is anywhere near achieving its potential as a constructive vehicle for the sharing of information and ideas among planners, local decisionmakers, and the general public.

I hope that the recent editorial direction of the Newsletter is just a temporary phase and that future issues will focus more directly upon the conditions, problems, and trends facing our nation, state, and local communities. One topic which I feel would be extremely timely is the increasing level of frustration and disillusionment among members of the planning profession trying to do meaningful and effective work in the current political climate which appears not to place much value on the planning function. -- Don Weden

(1. "Barbequed Dog Box Lunch" was included to point out the "culture clash" that planners must deal with. It was after all, a real event . . .

2. If our basic commodity is "intelligence, good judgment, and problem-solving ability," why ain't we rich? - C.P.)

- This is to register my strong dislike of some of the material inserted in the February/March Newsletter. The Newsletter should be current, relevant, and reflect the planning profession. "Mellow Shoes, Delphic Dining, Chocolate Mousse, Barbecued Dog, Memos to the Editor and assorted poems" do not fit any of these categories. In fact, some of the stuff is downright "flaky." The profession cannot afford this kind of off-the-wall reputation, particularly at this time when budget cutting is so prevalent. The articles on the "Human Race" and "Nuclear Reactors" are very interesting but are not directly relevant to local planning.

If there is not enough relevant and important news to communicate to APA members, then I suggest the Newsletter be cut down in size.

APA is trying to recruit new members now, but this kind of Newsletter will not help.

Please accept this as constructive criticism. -- Robert L. Sturdivant

(We thought that the Chocolate Mousse was not only current, relevant and a reflection of the planning profession, but in exquisitely good taste - C.P.)

STATE OF THE SECTION MESSAGE

For three years running, I helped to write the State of the City message for Mayor Alioto in San Francisco. Each time we identified the issues to be addressed in the year ahead. And each time the Press Secretary would use some of our material and then fill the speech with facts about what had been accomplished in the year just past. In preparing this statement, I recognize the attitude of the Press Secretary as well as my own proclivities as a planner. Let me do a bit of both.

I am now completing my term as Section Director. The year has been a rocky one for me as well as other members of the Board; still our successes point to a good year ahead. But it is going to be a very difficult year, and will require work from everyone.

Last year's APA conference in San Francisco drained most of the Section's energy, so we began this year almost from scratch. We also began with the thought that throughout the Section there were people anxious to be involved and who resent the San Francisco/Oakland/Marin centrism of the organization. We sought to encourage subsection activity in each of the SMSAs of the Section. We found opposites to be true. The Monterey Bay Sub-Section has been extremely active under the leadership of Ernie Franco; they have done an outstanding job of putting together dinner programs and field events. From all other potential sub-sections we have heard nothing. Our membership chair, Lois Scott, is now working with planners in Ukiah to let them know about each other.

In planning our programs, we may have striven for too much diversity, and the results have been mixed. We attempted to intersperse topical programs with professional development seminars, and we tried to hold them at places around the Bay Area. We now think that greater regularity or programs tied to monthly newsletters (if we can afford them) will improve that situation. The wine-and-cheese idea has not caught on, and we are returning to dinner meetings.

Interest by Board members has grown over the year. New people have joined us almost every month, and they have taken on new responsibilities. The greatest problem we face is one of time because most of us are already doing double-time at the office. New leadership is emerging from this group, and I expect a good deal of continuity from this year to next. (There is still room for motivated individuals, so call me if you are one of them.)

The best programs of the year, so far, have been the Housing Workshop (an overflow crowd of 150) and the seminar of Career Changes. We expect the May meeting on How We Pay for Future Infrastructure, the seminar on Transit Coordinators (not held as of this writing) and the Spring Picnic to be well attended.

National headquarters had established a computerized system for mailing labels, and there have been some problems getting all dues-paying members for the Section on that list. I apologize to any one of you who has not received mailings in the past that you should have received. We are leaning on National best we can when we hear of someone who has not received material from us. Let us know if you know of someone.

Our upcoming programs are laid out in this newsletter. A new program year will begin in September. In the interim, elections will be held for Section officers, and you will receive a ballot in May.

It has been more work than I ever expected, being Section Director. It has been ultimately rewarding. The profession needs all the help it can get these days, and the result is greater apathy and confusion than previous years. I have tried to help the Northern Section respond to the needs of its membership, and I think the year ahead will be a better one for the groundwork we have laid this year.

AN OPEN LETTER TO PLANNING DIRECTORS

As directors of planning programs, we all face a very unpleasant Catch-22. We have to stretch resources as far as they will go, just when we need to support the profession as much as possible. Particularly in public agencies, our staff members need to know that the profession is concerned about them and is available to them. And as a membership organization, APA can only respond to the extent each of us volunteers our own time and makes APA available to our staff.

Few agencies today purchase memberships for employees, but we can enable staff to use time during the work day to participate in APA activities. If your staff can contribute a fraction of their time to APA, it makes the program that much stronger for our fellow professionals. The cost of a membership is generally affordable to most staff, and if you will enable staff to put some office time into APA business, their membership will make more sense: they will be more likely to join for the first time or renew their membership.

APA requires an active and growing membership to maintain an effective legislative program, promote professional development, and provide a forum for planning issues. I urge you to invite your staff to become active members of both APA and AICP. If you can assist financially in those memberships or various conference costs, let your staff know what is available. And please consider seriously allowing a reasonable amount of work time for educational and professional activities of APA. Our profession is no longer a secret society dedicated to getting society to accept the idea of planning. The idea of planning is beginning to be recognized as the process that can maximize an organization's efficiency. Now we hear from elected officials that they understand the need for planning, it's just that other priorities come first. What is as true today as it was two hundred years ago is that if we don't hang together, we will surely hang separately. I urge your strong support for APA through an active membership.

Charles Q. Forester, Director of Planning, ABAG
Section Director, Northern California Section APA

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