

JULY/AUGUST 1997

Bay Area Planning Facts of Life

More than one quarter of Bay Area workers commute to jobs outside the county where they live. This number is up more than 50% since 1960.

While Santa Clara County has the most jobs and commute travel, San Francisco imports the largest number of commuters, with over 250,000 workers arriving from outside the city every day.

Bay Area traffic congestion is the third worst in the U.S., behind Los Angeles and Seattle. We are now worse than New York, Houston, and Phoenix.

1928 Oakland - San Francisco Annual Ferry Passengers: 46 Million

1997 Oakland - San Francisco Bay Bridge Annual Vehicle Crossings: 98 Million

source: ABAG

Northern Section, California Chapter, American Planning Association The Northern Section Takes on the Bay Bridge by Michael Neuman, AICP and Andrea Ouse, AICP

Northern Nev

ast month, Robert Piper's cover story in this publication presented an in-depth review of critical issues surrounding the replacement of the east span of the Bay Bridge and a call to action for planners to raise these issues in the appropriate channels. This article pinpoints four critical planning issues thus far overlooked and proposes a public forum to foster meaningful civic engagement.

Up to now, much of the official Caltrans and MTC debate has centered on engineering and architectural concerns. Seismic safety, cost, and aesthetics have dominated the design criteria. The Northern Section believes that while these considerations are important, there are others that are critical as well. The general premises of the Northern Section are two: to open the debate to a broader public, and to make planning issues more prominent.

Beginning in April, several Northern Section members have been active in the design of the replacement for the Bay Bridge. Board members Andrea Ouse, Lewis Ames and Michael Neuman are leading the efforts to get "Voice of the Voter" to sponsor a public forum on the proposed Bay Bridge East Span replacement on Sunday, July 20, 1997.

At a recent meeting of the Bay Bridge Coalition (more information below), Michael Neuman emphasized four major planning concerns: multiple uses of the bridge, connection to Treasure and Yerba Buena Islands and Oakland, bridge capacity, and an open public process. These critical issues are, by and large, absent from current Caltrans calculations.

Key questions these issues raise:

Multiple uses for the bridge: is it for cars only? or also transit, pedestrians, bicyclists?

To date, Caltrans has prepared a design study that includes a bicycle lane for costing purposes. There does not appear that there is any serious consideration being given to transit alternatives at this time.

Connection to Yerba Buena and Treasure Islands: is the bridge's effect on the islands' development being taken into account?

As a bridge, the East Span connects two places. Yet the focus to date has been the bridge itself and not its connections to the East Bay and Yerba Buena and Treasure Islands. The bridge's connections to these places and its impact on their growth and development must be more broadly assessed, from planning, urban design, economic, social, and environmental points of view.

Bridge capacity: is not considering the bridge's capacity wise?

Reserve structural capacity should be built in to accommodate other modes of transportation (including future modes not yet on the horizon) and additional traffic lanes. Gradeseparated pedestrian and bicycle lanes should be required to be integrated into the design.

Public process: is it truly open to diversity? is it too hasty?

The Bay Bridge Coalition

The Bay Bridge Coalition is composed of the AIA (architects), ASCE (civil engineers), SEANC (structural engineers), APA (planners), SPUR (civic), the San Francisco and Oakland Chambers of Commerce, the Oakland Museum of California, and SFMOMA. It has been working since February and has accomplished the following, among other achievements:

• persuaded MTC to create a Bay Bridge Engineering and Design Advisory Panel

• gotten the Oakland Museum of California (continued on page 4)

DIRECTORY

Director	

Discut	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Director Wendy Cosin, AICP	510/705-8108
e-mail: wec1@ci.berke	
Director Pro-Tem	•
Larry Cannon, AICP	415/433-6945
Treasurer	
Curtis Banks, AICP	415/858-3410
Administration Director	
Bulbul Goswami	510/238-3941
AICP Coordinator	
Don Bradley, AICP	415/592-0915
Ethics Review Coording	
June Catalano, AICP	510/577-3374
Awards Coordinator	707/-
Wayne Goldberg, AICP	
Communications Direct	
	415/896-0700
University Liaison	510//1/1/1/00
	510/614-1699
Legislative Liaison	100/07- 5-
Diana Elrod	408/277-2862
Professional Developm	
, · · · ·	510/524-7980
Membership Stove Emslie	510/577 0050
Steve Emslie	510/577-3350
International Liaison	115/105 1151
Stephen Wanat, AICP	415/435-1651
Regional Advisory Co	mmittees (RACs)
Central Bay Area	
Andrea Ouse, AICP	415/738-7341
East Bay	ан сайта. Ал ал
Michael Neuman, AICP	510/548-7500
East Bay Counties	
Greg Mattson	510/254-8850
South Bay	
D. Ungo-McCormick	408/920-0900
North Bay	
Pat Collins	707/575-1933
Monterey Bay	100 1000
Ernie Franco, AICP	408/899-6223
Far North	707/000
Lia Sullivan, AICP	707/822-5955
Northern Section Voice	email
· · · ·	415/281-0195
Newsletter Editor	
Newsletter Editor John Cook	510/540-0655
John Cook Advertising Coordinat e	510/540-0655
John Cook	510/540-0655
John Cook Advertising Coordinate Chuck Lerable Newsletter Designer	510/540-0655 pr 408/758-7155
John Cook Advertising Coordinate Chuck Lerable	510/540-0655 pr



2

specializing in visuals for the planning and design professions

Pennington

Graphic Design **Computer Mapping Marketing Communications Technical Illustration**

Northern News

DIRECTORS CORNER

by Wendy Cosin, AICP

The June 1997 issue of Utne Reader featured a story on "America's 10 Most Enlightened Towns (and we don't mean Santa Fe)." Rather than focusing on the usual "best places" standards such as jobs, crime, real estate, schools, and traffic, the writers looked for places that "foster connectedness and contentment among all the people who live in them." Sound's like a good goal for planners. The article describes ten cities where community activism and politics have made a difference in dealing with social issues such as economic inequality and social fragmentation; as well as more traditional planning issues, such as environmental degradation and urban sprawl.

Ithaca, New York, came out No. 1. Some of its characteristics are what you would expect from a progressive city (i.e. an environmentally sustainable co-housing project, a 14-year struggle that halted plans to divide the city with a four-lane highway, and a pedestrian mall that is the core of downtown). More unusual is an alternative currency system accepted at 350 local businesses which is designed to add to the local money supply and to keep resources circulating within the area. Ithaca ranked high as an enlightened city because the local political scene regularly deals with issues of economic equity, race, class, and environment. A network of nonprofit social service agencies and a variety of alternative services have developed in the city. For example, used bicycles and computers are donated to low income kids; a local credit union makes loans that would have been otherwise denied; and the Friendship Donations Network, an entirely volunteer and unfunded organization, gathers food, clothing and household supplies that would not have been used by hotels, restaurants, and supermarkets for support agencies to distribute.

Other cities listed in the Utne Reader article combined progressive politics with more typical planning projects. An arts and entertainment empowerment zone revived Providence, Rhode Island, by providing tax incentives to convert vacant buildings into housing, as well as tax incentives for artists to sell their work. The city helped a nonprofit organization convert abandoned buildings into a multipurpose arts space with apartments and work spaces for artists, theaters, and galleries. Chattanooga, Tennessee, revitalized its downtown following a 20-week series of visioning meetings. It has changed from being known as the most polluted city in the country to a model of sustainable community development, including renovation of downtown theaters and inns; creation of a Riverwalk as part of a planned 75-mile network of city greenways; and development of blighted industrial areas into an ecoindustrial park and zero-emissions industrial zones with a mix of housing and businesses. A free electric downtown shuttle is partially funded by the sale of popcorn at downtown theaters.

You probably could have guessed that the California town that best met the criteria for enlightenment was Arcata. The city is best known for its wastewater treatment plant, which also functions as a wildlife sanctuary. and marsh. It has also developed new markets, microindustries and value-added products, including transforming recycled glass into dinnerware and tiles, export of compost, and a culinary center which rents community kitchens to smoked salmon producers and other local businesses.

Most of the jurisdictions where we work are not likely to meet Utne Reader's definition of enlightenment, but they provide valuable examples of work that may inspire us as an. organization or as individuals. See the full article on the web at: http://www.utne.com/ towns/index.html

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

EDITORIAL

John Cook Tel: 510/540-0655 Fax: 510/642-1641 e-mail: jcook@ced.berkeley.edu 2836B Regent Street Berkeley, CA 94705

ADVERTISING Chuck Lerable Tel: 408/758-7155 Fax: 408/758-7460 e-mail: chuck@ci.salinas.ca.us

200 Lincoln Ave.

Salinas, CA 93901

ADDRESS CHANGES

Membership Department APA National Hqtrs. 122 South Michigan Ave., Ste. 1600 Chicago, IL 60603-6107 312/431-9100

The deadline for submitting materials for inclusion in the Northern News is the 16th day of the month prior to publication.

printed on 100% recycled paper



BULLETIN BOARD

Master Planning in China

The South Bay RAC and the South Bay. Chapter of the Association of Environmental Professionals will be hosting an evening event in July at Chez Savon in Campbell, CA. Gerry De Young, AICP, President of Ruth & Going Inc. of San Jose, will give a presentation on master planning efforts by Ruth and Going and a team of local Land Planner and Architects over the last 3 years in the towns of Guang Fu and Zhou Zhoung, in the Jiangsu Province, Peoples Republic of China. One master plan included master planning of a planned resort and recreation community and a second incuded the master planning of a mixed housing community. The is an unique opportunity to learn about the process of master planning in the changing environment of China through the experiences of a local planning professional.

Date: Thursday, July 24, 1997 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Place: Chez Sovan

2425 S. Bascom Ave.

Campbell, CA Meal: Cambodian Feast

\$10.00 APA or AEP member \$12.00 Non-members

RSVP: Tom Fitzwater (408) 451-9260 by noon July 22, 1997

www.ABAGworkshops.rsvp

ABAG is offering two half-day workshops, in conjuction with the Census Bureau, about how to find data on the Internet. The morning session will run from 9:30 to noon and the afternoon session from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. The workshops will cover using: finding population estimates, information on income and poverty, disability, mapping, etc. Tools which will be demonstrated include: Censtats, Ferret, the Government Information Sharing Project, Landview mapping software, and others.

The workshops are being offered in several locations:

July 8 Oakland	August 4	Santa Rosa
July 9 Fairfield	August 5	Menlo Park
July 10 Oakland	August 6	San Jose

The cost is \$35 per workshop. To register or obtain more information, please contact Maia at 510-464-7929.

UC Berkeley Extension Classes

It's your last chance to sign up for summer classes with UC Extension's Environmental Management Program. Two classes of particular interest to planners are:

- Coping with Prop. 218 Goldfarb/ Lipman - San Francisco - July 11
- · Planning and Zoning Law and Practice - Thomas Jacobson - San Francisco - July 18

For more information, please call (510) 643-7590.

BAAQMD Offers Development Endorsements

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has a keen interest in mixeduse, compact, infill, and transit-oriented development projects because of their potential to reduce automobile use. However, developers face a range of obstacles-from inflexible local building codes to reluctant lenders—when proposing alternatives to conventional sprawl development. To enhance their chances for approval, the Air District has established a process to endorse development projects that meet our criteria for encouraging transit use, walking and bicycling. This is a way to offer the support of a major regional public health and environmental agency and thus encourage developers and review boards to build projects that are more beneficial to air quality.

The Air District will consider writing an endorsement letter for projects that meet the following five criteria: appropriate location, moderate or high-density, compatible mixed land uses, proximity to transit, and pedestrian and bicycle friendliness.

The Air District's Planning Division would like to offer technical assistance on meeting these criteria to builders and local planners early in the development process. For more information about the District's endorsement process, please call Niko Letunic at (415) 749-5170.

The Bulletin Board section of the Northern News is intended to provide a forum for individuals to provide the membership with information about events or current topics. If you would like to submit an item for the Bulletin Board section, contact the Newsletter Editor at (510) 540-0655.

Bay Bridge...

to mount an exhibition of bridge designs

• introduced design and process criteria that are now used by Caltrans and MTC

The Coalition is sending to Alameda County Supervisor Mary King, Chair of the MTC Bay Bridge Task Force, a letter recommending a set of planning and design criteria to be used in the evaluation of bridge proposals. The letter further recommends that an open competition be used to select the bridge design team.

Voice of the Voter Forum

The Northern Section is working with the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) and the Bay Bridge Coalition to propose a "Voice of the Voter" forum on the Bay Bridge replacement. The basic premises are to open up the debate to a broad public audience, and to insert key issues into the debate that are currently absent.

The Northern Section and the Bay Bridge Coalition have initiated contact with the following persons to appear on the Voice of the Voter Forum: Senator Quentin Kopp, Assemblyman Lou Papan, Alameda County Supervisor Mary King, San Francisco Supervisor Michael Yaki, Aaron Betsky (SFMOMA), Sunne Wright McPeak (Bay Area Council), and Jim Chappell (SPUR). Northern Section members are encouraged to suggest others.

The "Voice of the Voter" is a joint venture of KRON-TV Channel 4, the San Francisco Chronicle and KQED-FM that produces occasional media events about essential Bay Area issues. The goal of the Voice of the Voter is to reach and actively engage a broad public through print and broadcast media.

Who is Responsible for What

Caltrans is responsible for the bridge design. Their main design criteria to date have been seismic safety and cost. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is pro-

(continued from page 1)

viding planning and policy counsel to Caltrans on broad (non-engineering) issues. On July 23 MTC will adopt its bridge design recommendation to Caltrans. Using MTC's recommendation, Caltrans will prepare requests for proposals (RFP's) for the bridge design and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

MTC, along with ABAG, Caltrans, BCDC and local governments (San Francisco, Alameda, Oakland, etc.), has held four public scoping meetings. In addition, SPUR and other civic groups have given the Bay Bridge issues a forum. These civic meetings, along with correspondence from individuals and groups, have successfully introduced bicycle access and aesthetic issues into the arena. Overall, public meetings, whether sponsored by MTC or by other civic groups, have been moderately attended.

The MTC Bay Bridge Design Task Force is chaired by Mary King, Alameda County Supervisor. This is the political and policy body overseeing the process. There is an Engineering and Design Advisory Panel, co-chaired by engineer Joseph Nicoletti and architect John Kriken. This is the Task Force's technical body, made up mostly of structural and civil engineers and architects. The Advisory Panel held a three day workshop in mid-May to review more than a dozen design alternatives. The Panel evaluated these design alternatives on June 2.

On June 16, the Advisory Panel adopted a "short list of design proposals"—three different bridge designs—and gave them to MTC's Bay Bridge Design Task Force. On June 24, the Bay Bridge Design Task Force prepared its own "short list of design proposals" for the Commissioners of MTC to consider. Only two meetings remain: on July 16, the Bay Bridge Design Task Force will formally adopt bridge design recommendations, which in turn will

(continued on page 6)

S JOBS

City of Berkeley

Associate Planner

Salary: \$44,424 - \$52,728 + 7% Additional Comp. & Full Benefits

Seeking qualified journey-level planners in both Current and Advance Planning Divisions. Conducts planning studies, collects and presents data and prepares reports on moderate to difficult projects. Requires graduation from a four-year college or equivalent with major course-work in city or regional planning, urban planning or related field, and two years of professional planning experience. City of Berkeley application materials must be submitted by 5 p.m. 07/14/97. Call: (510) 644-6460 or apply at: Personnel Dept., 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704. AA/EOE

City of Berkeley

Planning Manager

Salary: \$60,924 - \$73,560 + Additional Comp. & Full Benefits

Berkeley is seeking an experienced individual to manage Current Planning Division and staff the Zoning Adjustments Board. Position supervises 12 professional and support staff and reports to Planning Director. Qualifications include a four year degree in city, urban or regional planning, plus five years of planning experience (two of which include supervision), including extensive citi-(zen participation and work with boards and commissions. City of Berkeley application materials must be submitted by 5 p.m., 08/4/97. Call: (510) 644-6460 or apply at: Personnel Dept., 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704. AA/EOE

4







California Chapter

American Planning Association

CCAPA's Annual Conference

Choices, Challenges and Change

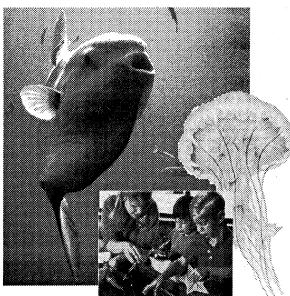
October 12 - 15, 1997

Monterey Conference Center and Double Tree Hotel

The Planner's Information Resource

) iverse professional development opportunities abound at Monterey '97, CCAPA's Annual Conference.

More than 50 conference sessions organized into eight tracks:



Six Mobile Workshops

- MW1: Carmel/Pacific Grove/Monterey Downtowns
- **MW2:** Walking Tour of Monterey Historic Adobes and Gardens
- MW3: Boat Tour of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- MW4: Pebble Beach and Spanish Bay Revegetation
- **MW5:** Fort Ord Base Conversion
- MW6: Cannery Row/Doc Ricketts' Walking

Early Registration Deadline: August 15, 1997 - Register Now!

For further information, to request a registration form or to register, call (916) 361-8384 or visit CCAPA's Conference Web site at http://www.rain.org/~calapa. For hotel reservations, call (408) 649-4511.

- Professional Development
- Land Use and Urban Design
- Transportation ,
- Environment and Natural Resources, complete with CEQA updates
- Economic Development and Fiscal Policy
- Implementation Tools and Practices
- Law and Government
- Information Management and Technology

Networking and Leisure in a Spectacular Coastal Setting

- Special activities are planned for you:
- Conference participants and guests will enjoy exclusive use of the entire Monterey Bay Aquarium, including the new "Outer Bay" Wing, at a fabulous private party Sunday evening.
- Oceanfront golf tournament at Pacific Grove Municipal Course.
- Tennis tournament at the Monterey Tennis Center.
- Fun cruise on Monterey Bay.
- California Planners Foundation Auction

Opening Plenary Session Speaker



Peter Douglas, California Coastal Commission Executive Director since 1985 and Chief Deputy Director, 1977-1985, coauthored Proposition 20 (California Coastal Zone Conservation Act of 1972). Recipient of the Julius A. Stratton "Champion of the Coast" Award for leadership in effective coastal management.



Keynote Lunch Speaker



Bill Press, co-host of Crossfire, CNN's popular political debate program, was previously chairman of the California Democratic Party and director of the California Office of Planning & Research. Press has received numerous awards as a radio talk show host and television commentator, including four Emmys, a Golden Mike Award and "Best Commentator of the Year" by the Associated Press

Monterey '97		RENCE REGISTRATION
VIONTEREY 7/		ATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 15, 1997
		ANON DEADLINE: Addust 17, 1997
	Your name as it is to appear on your badge	AICP? YES NO
California Chapter		Spouse's Name (if registered)
American Planning Association October 12 - 15	Affiliation, agency, company or school	Check here if you want child care information
	Mailing Address	
nstructions: Please type or print in black		Student Verification: I certify that the student is currently enrolled full-time.
ink. Use separate form for each	City, State, Zip Code	Signature of Head of Department/Program
registrant. Payment must be received	Daytime Phone	School Date
to process registration. For registration inquiries,		SISTRATION FEES
call (916) 361-8384.	Registration includes two breakfast and ty	vo lunch meals at the DoubleTree Hotel, including Opening and Awards Lunch. One-day registration includes all mea
Make hotel reservations early!	provided on that day. Registration fees postmarked by:	8/15/97 9/12/97 On-site Totals
reservations early:	APA Member	\$300 \$330 \$345
	Nonmember	\$340 \$375 \$390
	Spouse	\$135 \$150 \$165
	Student	\$135 \$145 \$155
	Planning Commission/City Council mem	
Early Registration	One-day (circle: 10/13, 10/14, 10/15)	\$150 \$165 \$175
Deadline:	ADDITIC	NAL SPECIAL EVENTS
August 15, 1997	Aquarium Gala Evening Reception (The Opening Gala Reception is a special event and re	@\$ 25
	Golf Tournament (Pacific Grove Municipal Course)	@\$ 55
	Tennis Tournament (Monterey Tennis Center)	@\$25
		@\$20 adults@\$8 children
	EXTRA Tickets: Opening Plenary Session Breakfast	@\$20
	Keynote Lunch	@\$30
	Awards Lunch	@\$30
CONVENIENT WAYS	Mobile Workshops:	
TOREGISTER		Downtowns (Monday, 1:30 - 5:00 PM)@ \$ 15
Mail check or purchase	MW2 Walking Tour of Monterey Historie (Monday, 1:30 - 5:00 Рм)	
order (payable to CCAPA) with registration form to:	MW3 Boat Tour of Monterey Bay Nation (Tuesday, 8:30 - 11:30 AM)	al Marine Sanctuary@ \$ 25
CCAPA Conference	MW4 Pebble Beach and Spanish Bay (Tue	sday, 1:30 - 4:30 рм)@ \$ 15
10411 Old Placerville Road	MW5 Fort Ord Base Conversion (Wednesd	ау, 8:30 - 11:30 ам)@ \$ 15
Suite 210 Sacramento, CA 95827	MW6 Cannery Row Walking Tour (Tuesday, 8:30 - 11:30 ам ОК 1:30 - 4:30 рм, с	@ \$ 15
		Special Events Subtotals:
Fax registration form, including credit card information to:	TOTAL ALL REGISTR.	ATION AND SPECIAL EVENT FEES:
(916) 361-1574	CHAR	GE BY CREDIT CARD
		cannot accept credit card payment for membership payment
Register on-line, including		
credit card information, by	Please charge \$ to my	
visiting the CCAPA	Credit Card No	Expiration Date
Conference web site at:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

ESSAY

University of California, San Francisco

JOBS

Assistant Planner

Salary: \$40,300 - \$50,300/Midpoint

The UCSF Campus Planning Department is seeking qualified applicants to assist with policy, program and project planning in areas such as campus housing, landscaping and signage. Candidates must be highly organized and detail oriented, with superior data analysis and synthesis skills and the ability to clearly display and report text and data. Knowledge of architectural, planning, engineering and construction technology is required, and experience in life/health sciences, university, medical center, or biotechnology settings is a plus.

BA or equivalent in planning, architecture, landscape architecture or related field required, with a minimum of three years experience in urban design, planning, architecture and/or landscape architecture, preferably in a university setting. Graduate education preferred; graduate degree may be substituted for two years of experience. Experience with Windows-based spreadsheet (Excel) word processing (Word) and graphic programs required. To apply, please send resume including salary history to: UCSF Human Resources Department, Staffing and Compensation, Job# 7504C, 1350 Seventh Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94143-0832.

The Commentary section of the newsletter is intended to provide a forum for members to express their views relative to planning related topics, or to express an opinion relative to articles printed in this newsletter. If you would like to submit an article, contact the Newsletter Editor at (51.0) 540-0655.

Planners in Government

By Stephen E. Barton, Ph.D., AICP

hy would anyone who has just graduated with a degree in planning want to work for a local government these days? Isn't local government dull, limited and routine? Doesn't local government contract out most of the interesting work? The student who gets a job in a consulting firm will be flying off to Santa Barbara County to write up the economic and environmental impact analysis of the plan to make the Reagan Ranch into a national monument, while her classmate in government is processing applications to build second story additions or engage in home occupations.

There is some reality to this negative image of local government, but it misses some important accomplishments that are usually possible only in local government, and major unexplored potential for even more accomplishments if planners prepare themselves to work for them.

First, there are major satisfactions to public service. The civil service planner can be there from the beginning to the end, from the first time the idea of a planning project such as an area plan is raised to the time it is completed and people are trying to implement it and use the new zoning overlay. The consultants come and go, but the local government planner sees what really happens. The local government planner gets to know the cast of characters, who, being human, are inherently interesting, and sees the interplay of personality, policy and politics. If you care about your craft as a planner, there is nothing quite like spending five or ten years in one place and seeing a few things through. It is slow. It is frustrating. It is the real world and how change is really made most of the time.

Second, planners could play a major role in efforts at "reinventing" government. There is an important movement to change the way government works to make it more efficient, effective and responsive to the public by reducing layers of supervision and management, empowering line staff to make more decisions, and create more direct accountability to meeting objectives set by public officials and the public we serve. Planners are among the best educated people in local government, and their background prepares them well to take a leadership role in such efforts. If you can facilitate neighborhood meetings, you can facilitate employee meetings. If you can survey neighborhood residents, you can survey employees and service users. If you can do a participatory plan for neighborhood land uses, you can do a participatory planning process involving city employees and those they serve in a plan to improve local service delivery. Planning education needs to do more to orient planners to local government in general, and not simply to the planning function.

Finally, planners in local government are often union members and can play a major role in union efforts to defend government service and bring about a more just society. Planners as a group usually believe that, democratic governments should control and direct the results of a market economy to, respond to the interests of all citizens, not simply those who have the most property. As the U.S. moves towards an increasingly third-world polarization of high and low income workers, unions form the bedrock of efforts to spread the benefits of economic growth broadly throughout the working population. One of the causes of increased income inequality is that unionization is down substantially in the private sector. As a result, public sector unions play a major role in sustaining support for union organizing as well as for the continued role of government in providing public services. Planners' skills in analysis and public participation easily lend themselves to leadership in public sector unions, especially to defense of the role (continued on page 6)

Northern News

ESSAY

(continued from page 5)

of public services and to union-management partnerships to improve service delivery.

This is an exciting time to be active in a union. After a long period of conservatism and decline, unions are again on the cutting edge of progressive social movements. My own Service Employees International Union has organizing campaigns such as "Justice for Janitors" and "Dignity" for nursing home workers, trying to take low-paid workers out of poverty. Unions were the major force behind the increase in the minimum wage, and fought unsuccessfully to keep the income tax surcharge on incomes over \$100,000 and \$200,000 annually and rebate the money to cities and counties so that the well-to-do would contribute a fair share towards the society that enables them to become wealthy. In Berkeley unions have been the backbone of local campaigns for

Bay Bridge...

(continued from page 4)

be presented to the full Metropolitan Transportation Commission for their consideration and approval on July 23.

The Central and East Bay RACs held a joint meeting on Monday, June 30, to prepare a draft of the Northern Section's position to present to the Board of Directors, and to prepare for the Voice of the Voter forum. How can you get involved? Call Communications Director Lewis Ames, Central Bay RAC Director Andrea Ouse, or East Bay RAC Director Michael Neuman. To make this forum a reality and get all of the salient issues on the table, we will need your input and help. bond measures and local parcel taxes that are essential to sustaining local government services. Basically, if public sector unions and their allies don't succeed, there won't be much left of government in the public interest in California, and not much planning either.

Why be a local government planner? Right now, there are not many other places I would rather be.

Stephen E. Barton is a Senior Planner in the Planning & Development Department of the City of Berkeley and Acting President of the City of Berkeley Chapter of SEIU Local 535. He would like to hear from other unionized planners about their experiences, both positive and negative, for a possible follow-up article. This article is based on a talk at the 1997 Spring Forum and Job Fair at the Department of City & Regional Planning at the University of California at Berkeley.



6



NORTHERN SECTION CALENDAR

July		2 ¹⁴ .		JULY	7	-	
8-10 ABAG Internet Workshops; (510) 464-7929	S	М	T_1^{-1}	W 2	T 2	F 4	S 5
10 NSCCAPA Board Meeting, Berkeley*; 6:00 p.m.	6	7	8	.2	(10)	11	12
 Bay Bridge Design Review Task Force; MTC Auditorium, Oakland 1:30 p.m. – Adopt Bridge Design Recommendations 	-	14 21 28	15 22 29	$ \begin{array}{c} (16) \\ (23) \\ 30 \end{array} $	$\underbrace{17}{24}$	18 25	19 26
23 MTC Meeting; MTC Auditorium, Oakland, 10:00 a.m.	21	20	29	<u> </u>	51		
Adopt Bridge Design Recommendations			AU	JGU	ST		· · ·
24 Planning in China; Chez Sovan, San Jose; 6:00 p.m.	S	М	T.	W	T	F	S
(408) 451-9260	3	4	5	6	7	1 ' Q	2
	- 5 - E - 10	4 11	$\frac{5}{12}$	13	14	15	16
August	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
4-6 ABAG Internet Workshops; (510) 464-7929	24		26	27		29	30
September	31						
4 NSCCAPA Board Meeting, Berkeley*; 6:00 p.m.			SEP	TEN	1BE	R	. <u></u>
	S	М	Т	W	T	F	s S
		1,	2	,3,	(4)	5	6
* NSCCAPA Board Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month (excluding August!)	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
at the Berkeley Permit Services Center, 2118 Milvia Street, one block west of the	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Downtown Berkeley BART station. The Board welcomes your attendance and encourages	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
your participation in the organization. We can provide you with an EMAIL copy of the upcoming meeting's agenda (sorry, no faxes) if you send a request to: <wec1@ci.berkeley.ca.us>. Call Wendy Cosin at (510) 705-8108 for more information.</wec1@ci.berkeley.ca.us>	28	29	30				an the second se
			~				· · ·

FIRST CLASS MAIL U.S. POSTAGE PAID Hayward, CA Permit No. 2

APA Northern News EDITORIAL OFFICE 2836B Regent Street

Berkeley, CA 94705

Send To: