

Bay Bridge Design Heating Up

by Michael Neuman

APR 9 1998

APRIL 1998

*P*erhaps the biggest project many Bay Area planners will see in their lifetimes is the replacement of the eastern span of the Bay Bridge. Many members of the Northern Section are involved in various aspects of this project from design advocacy to environmental reporting. The Northern News has previously looked at the critical issues that relate to replacing the span; this article is an update of the process and the players and some of the developing issues.

Bridge Design

In January, Caltrans selected the joint venture design team T.Y. Lin International and Moffatt and Nichol to submit designs. This team is divided into two competitive teams for the first phase of the project, which is to prepare a 30% completed design for the two alternatives, a cable-stayed and a self-anchored suspension bridge. In June, MTC and Caltrans will select one of these alternatives. For more information on the process and progress, see the Caltrans website, www.dot.ca.gov/dist4. Caltrans also publishes an occasional newsletter, "East Span News"; call (510)-286-4444 for a copy.

The main selection criteria are seismic safety, cost, and appearance. Pedestrian and bicycle access and crossings over the bridge are being included in the designs, in the anticipation that funds will be available to build one or more bike/pedestrian lanes. The State has given the Bay Area the option to extend the toll bridge increase of \$1 by two years, for a total of ten years, so as to pay for the bike/pedestrian lanes. Other pieces of the project to be funded by an extension of the toll increase are a possible new Transbay Terminal and the choice to "upgrade" to a cable or suspension bridge over an ostensibly less expensive causeway/viaduct.

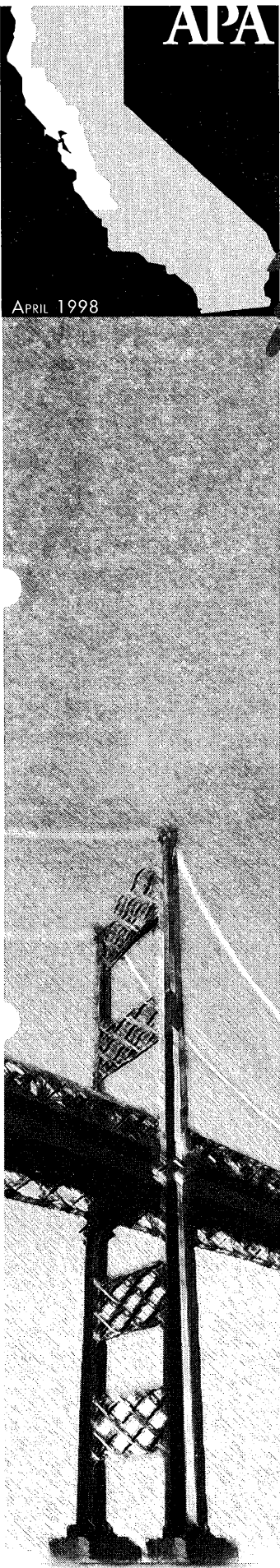
Transbay Terminal DUNCAN B. JONES

The City of San Francisco has suspended, at least temporarily, the EIR for the new Transbay Terminal. Caltrans, the owner of the terminal, is thus going forward with a \$15 million seismic retrofit project. This project would not move the terminal nor increase its capacity or enhance its connections with other modes of public transit in the city, as a new Transbay Terminal would have done. Also under discussion and not yet resolved is the above-ground ramps that connect the terminal directly to the Bay Bridge. One option is to demolish one of the ramps and have both ingress and egress on the remaining ramp. As it is now configured, one separate ramp handles ingress to the Terminal from the Bay Bridge, the other handles egress from the Terminal. While a consultants' report suggests that the single ramp can handle current and anticipated traffic volume, a full operational analysis was anticipated to be ready in March. East Bay municipalities, transit providers, and transit advocates want to keep both ramps. However, removing one of the ramps will spur redevelopment opportunities in South of Market.

Bike Lane

The Bay Bridge Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee, assembled by Caltrans in conjunction with a variety of bicycle, pedestrian, and disabled groups, has met regularly since December at Caltrans headquarters in Oakland. The committee works directly with Caltrans and has drafted a set of criteria for the design of the bike/pedestrian lane(s). The committee now recommends two lanes 12 feet wide, one for bicycles, another for pedestrians, each separated from vehicular traffic. One lane would be on the

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by Wendy Cosin, AICP

One of my favorite State conferences was held many years ago in Yosemite. Although there aren't facilities large enough to accommodate APA anymore, it is still possible to combine pleasure and planning at the park. My most recent trip to Yosemite proved to be a combination of the two, although the recreation was more enjoyable in retrospect than in experience. Luckily it was tempered with a sunny stroll in the valley and a trip to the visitor center, which included a video and display about implementation of the Yosemite General Management Plan.

The moral of the story is that if you haven't skied in four years, you should never try a cross country ski trail that one can access only via chair lift. A topo map would have clued us in that the back country trail included the kind of serious elevation change that involves nearly constant side-stepping both up and down. Without a flashlight, the last two hours in the dark were a bit tricky, but luckily we reached the groomed trails on Glacier Point Road right before dark. The moon was too slight a crescent to offer much light, but the night was clear and the stars were incredible. When we finally made it in around 8:30, there were nine others still out. Hopefully they had flashlights.

Down in the valley, the goals of the General Management Plan (GMP) were given a boost by last year's flooding which damaged many of the facilities that were planned to be removed or relocated. Seventeen years after approval of the GMP, the number of visitors had doubled and few of the goals from the 1980 plan had been realized. The Valley Implementation Plan finally moved forward with publication of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. At the visitor center, a video provided a graphic picture of the "flood of the century" and effectively explained the preferred alternative. In a nutshell, the Implementation Plan calls for removal of unnecessary structures, roads, and bridges (including three listed in the National Register) and restoration of recovered land. Simulations used in both the video and the EIS clearly demonstrate how the proposed changes would actually look.

As in Silicon Valley, Yosemite's big planning issues are congestion and housing. Although there has been a park shuttle system for 24 years (with over 20,000 people using the system daily in August), gridlock is a well-known summer problem. Nearly all of the visitor growth has been associated with increasing day use—not surprising since the hotels and campgrounds are always full—between 1981 and 1991, day users increased from 15% of all park visitors to 37%. It was determined that the most feasible way to reduce traffic would be to require day-use visitors to leave their cars at a staging area. A variety of alternatives were analyzed, including light rail and an elevated group rapid transit system, however, due to costs and viewshed impacts, busses, hopefully electric, are the mode currently being considered.

In terms of housing, elimination of all employee housing in the valley met with resistance; the new proposed action leaves over 1000 employees housed there. Guest lodging is proposed to be reduced by 20.4% and while the lower cost units will be the hardest hit, there will continue to be a mix of accommodations available. For more information, check out the EIS at the National park Service planning page (www.nps.gov/planning). And you might want to make your vacation reservations now.



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



JOBS

Planner II/III

San Mateo County

Salary DOQ

San Mateo County seeks a professional planner for its Long Range Planning Section. Responsibilities include: researching and analyzing land use and transportation issues; assisting unincorporated communities to solve land use problems; developing solutions for Countywide transportation plans and programs; and preparing and presenting planning reports that are concise, accurate, and facilitate decision making. Although the current vacancy is in long range planning, future openings could occur in other section.

Bachelor's degree in planning or a closely related field and two years professional planning experience, or a Master's degree and one year of experience is desirable. For more information and/or an information packet, call San Mateo County Employee and Public Services at (650) 363-4343. Application deadline is May 1, 1998 by 5:00 p.m. or post-marked by midnight on May 1, 1998.

Associate Planner

City of Half Moon Bay

Salary: \$3,561 - \$4,329/month plus benefits

The City of Half Moon Bay is currently recruiting to fill the position of an Associate Planner. The Associate Planner is responsible for performing a variety of routine and complex administrative, technical, and professional work in the current and/or long range planning programs of the City related to the development and implementation of land use and related municipal plans and policies. Submit a completed City of Half Moon Bay application and resume. An application can be obtained by calling the Planning Department at (650) 726-8250. Send all materials to Planning Director, City of Half Moon Bay, 501 Main Street, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019. Final filing date: April 10, 1998. EOE.

BULLETIN BOARD

East Bay RAC Get-Together

The East Bay Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) is holding a social get-together on Thursday, April 9 at the Black Diamond Brewery, 2330 N. Main Street in Walnut Creek, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. In addition to the opportunity to socialize with other East Bay planners, Val Alexeeff of the Contra Costa Community Development Department will share some of his experiences as a planner in the Soviet Union. Appetizers are complimentary. A no-host bar will be provided. For more information, contact Greg Matson at (925) 254-8850.

Planners' Task Force

Experiencing problems related to your current job as a planner? Need advice on strategies and resources that can help you successfully navigate current job issues?

Assistance is just a call, fax, or e-mail away. The Planners' Support Task Force, a joint task force of the APA and AICP, is available for offering nonjudgmental advice to planners in need of support. Our task force members are geographically distributed throughout the US. Contact the Planners' Support Task Force through:

Rosemary Jones
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Joanne Garnett, AICP
email: Jgarnett@wyoming.com
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fax: 307-367-6396

North Bay RAC Get-Together

Please join the North Bay RAC for Pizza Night, compliments of the Northern Section. This will be a casual event to gather ideas on topics for the 1998 "Brown Bag" series. These are your membership dollars at work, so join us for some fun and socializing, and tell us what you would like to learn, do, discuss, etc., in 1998. We're looking forward to discussing some new ideas.

Where: Third Street Aleworks Brewpub,
610 Third Street, 2nd floor,
Santa Rosa

When: Thursday, April 16, from 5 p.m.
to 8 p.m.

Menu: Pan-style pizza and Caesar salad
(served at 6 p.m.)

RSVP by April 9th. Call Kristine with
questions, (707) 575-1933.

Another RAC, Another Brewpub!

As spring approaches and El Niño begins to wane, those of us in the Central Bay RAC region (San Francisco and San Mateo counties) wonder how we'll spend the long-awaited spring days to come. Suddenly there is an answer: spend an afternoon at the world-famous Anchor Brewing Company in San Francisco! That's right, we've arranged a special tour of the plant in San Francisco's Potrero District (1705 Mariposa) at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 15. Come spend a couple of hours on the tour (which includes product tasting) and enjoy a lovely spring day with fellow planners from the area. Be forewarned: the number admitted to the tour is severely limited! Due to the restricted access, reservation will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Please call Andrea Ouse, Central Bay RAC Chair at (415) 753-1777 to reserve a space on this "mini spring fling"!

(More Bulletin Board on page 5)

Bay Bridge Design...

south side of the eastern approach into Oakland; the other on the north side of the western approach into Yerba Buena Island. Other options include above, below, and in the middle of the two spans. The group is considering many other factors, such as wind, noise, traffic, maintenance, views, and lighting. For more information on this committee's work, contact Michael Neuman or Victoria Eisen (ABAG).

Design Task Force

The Task Force, chaired by Alameda County Supervisor Mary King, will next meet on April 8 at 1 p.m. at MTC Headquarters in preparation for the full MTC deciding on June 24 on a recommended design of the bridge. For more information, see MTC's web site at www.mtc.ca.gov.

Engineering and Design Advisory Panel

The Panel, known by its acronym EDAP, is co-chaired by engineer Joseph Nicoletti and architect John Kriken. It held its most recent meeting in the first week of March, when it reviewed six options presented by the design team. The options were single tower, double tower, and hybrid variations of both the cable stay and suspension alternatives. Visually, the main difference between the suspension and cable stay variations is the slope of the main cables. On the suspension bridge, the cables are curved or relaxed. On the cable stay, they are straight or rigid. The EDAP was critical of hybrid variations on grounds of both seismic safety and aesthetics. The panel includes one planner, Karen Alshuler of SMWM in San Francisco. The EDAP meets next on April 15 at 1 p.m. at MTC Headquarters. Renderings of the options are available on MTC's website.

Environmental Impact Statement

Parsons Brinckerhoff was awarded the contract to do the EIS, and its work is being led by Mike Davis, PB's environmental manager. Past Northern Section Director Steve Noack has recently joined the EIS team. The draft EIS is scheduled for release in August 1998. It is expected to be a major

(continued from page 1)

document in Caltrans' selection of the preferred alternative (cable stay or suspension) in the fall of 1998.

APA and AIA Receive Awards

The AIA awarded its annual Government Affairs Award to the San Francisco Chapter of the AIA for its involvement in the Bay Bridge Coalition in February of this year. AIA San Francisco, along with APA's Northern California Section, and the American Society of Civil Engineers have provided leadership to the Coalition. Congratulations to our colleagues at AIA SF! Michael Neuman received a special commendation from the AIA California Council for his work on the Coalition. The Northern Section has decided to nominate the Coalition for an APA California Chapter award.

What's Next

On Thursday, April 16, the AIA SF, MTC, the California Heritage Alliance, and the APA will sponsor a reception and public forum entitled "Taking a Look at the New Look of the Bay Bridge Eastern Span." It will be held at the San Francisco State University Downtown Center at 425 Market Street, 26th floor, near the Embarcadero BART. The reception will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a presentation by the architects at 7 p.m., response by a "panel of experts" at 7:45 and audience comments at 8:30. The event is free and open to the public.

Mary King said "we want to hear from Bay Area residents about what they think of these designs." Write or call the MTC or its Task Force members, or email the MTC at info@mtc.ca.gov and let them know what you think. Get your jurisdiction involved, as the deadline for the decision is drawing near. Attend a meeting of the EDAP, the Task Force, or MTC.

For more information, contact Michael Neuman, East Bay RAC Chair, at (510) 548-7500 or Andrea Ouse, Central Bay RAC Chair, at (650) 991-8160.



CEQA Project Manager

Impact Sciences

Salary: DOQ

Impact Sciences, a state-wide environmental consulting and planning firm, seeks a CEQA Project Manager for its growing San Francisco office. Main responsibilities are to lead CEQA studies and conduct marketing. At least 3 years experience with successful project management (northern California/SF Bay area) and established relationships with clients required. Advanced written and oral communication skills essential. Salary DOQ; only professionals with initiative, team orientation, and enthusiastic attitude need apply. Send resume to Impact Sciences, 100 Bush Street #210, San Francisco, CA 94104 or fax to (415) 989-2450

Advanced Planning Manager

East Bay Regional Park District

Salary: \$53,207 - \$67,945 with merit steps to \$74,902 + benefits

The Park District is seeking an experienced middle or senior manager with strong land use planning and environmental review background to fill its Advanced Planning Manager vacancy. This position supervises four person staff responsible for review of a wide range of development projects, environmental impact analyses, general and specific plan studies, and other private and public activities that may affect the District's 86,000 acres of parklands, regional trails, and other interests. Requires a minimum of a Bachelor's degree with major coursework in land use planning, environmental planning, land acquisition, or land use law and six years of experience in one or several related areas, three years of which should include supervision of professional planning staff. To obtain an application packet, call the East Bay Regional Park District at (510) 635-0138, ext. 2160 or 2154. Applications must be received before 5 p.m. on the closing date of April 29, 1998. EOE.

**Permit Specialist**

Sonoma County

Salary: \$14.39 - \$17.49/hour

Full time position in Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department. Responsibilities include providing assistance and technical information to industry professionals and the general public on the entire spectrum of development activity permits, explaining laws and regulations, assisting the public in filing applications for development activity permits, processing same-day development permits, and preparing map graphics. Requires related educational course work or one year of related experience. Complete details available in job flier. File County application and supplemental questionnaire by April 10, 1998 with Sonoma County Personnel, 2300 County Center Drive, Building A, #106, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Call (707) 527-2331. AA/EOE.

Planning Technician

City of San Jose

Salary: \$33,342-\$40,539

The Planning Technician provides skilled assistance to the professional planning staff by performing a variety of field and office work in the collection and presentation of planning data. Typical duties include initial processing of development applications, participating in the collection of factual information relating to land use and resources and participating in the preparation of reports, plans, maps, tables, and similar materials. Much of this work is performed using personal computers to create and maintain word processing documents, data bases, spreadsheets, and maps for use in analyzing and displaying information. To request a copy of the job announcement and application, contact the City of San Jose Department of Human Resources at (408) 277-4205. Application deadline: May 7, 1998.

DCRP 50th Anniversary Events

To celebrate its 50 years as one of the nation's preeminent planning programs, UC Berkeley's Department of City and Regional Planning is holding several noteworthy events. Panel discussions to be held on May 9th include "Thinking Ahead: The Role of Planning in the 21st Century" and "The Future of Everything." Invited speakers to the latter event include Douglas Wheeler, State Secretary of Resources, Candida Ripp, Program Director of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Stephen Levy, Director of the Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy, noted author William Fulton, and Professor Robert Cervero. These forums begin at 9:00 a.m. at Wurster Hall and are free of charge. Later that evening, join the DCRP community in their formal best at the "Jubilee Ball" at the Berkeley City Club. For reservation information or more details, contact DCRP at (510) 642-3258.

New Classes in Public Finance at UC Davis Extension

In response to the need for more comprehensive and in-depth public finance curricula, the Land Use and Public Finance Program at UC Davis Extension has developed two one-day courses designed for both public agency and private sector specialists involved with planning and finance. "Assessment District Financing: Fundamentals and Current Practices" and "Mello-Roos Financing: Fundamentals and Current Practices" review the law, policy, and implementation of these popular financial instruments. The two courses will be offered on May 14 and 15; participants registering for both by April 10 receive a discount price of \$390 for both courses. During the spring, UC Davis extension is offering other new one-day courses of interest to planning professionals; contact Linda Pike at (530) 757-8878 for more information.

Housing Forum

As discussed in our last issue, the Northern Section is working to assemble a forum on housing in the Bay Area, a perpetually difficult issue facing localities and the region as a whole. Contact Patricia Jeffery, Professional Development Director of the Northern Section, at (510) 524-7980 or email, Pjeff85233@aol.com, if you would like to be a part of the committee organizing the forum, scheduled for fall 1998.

UC Berkeley Extension Courses

The UC Berkeley Extension Program in Environmental Management almost always features classes of interest to planning professionals. If you do not already have one of their catalogs detailing course offerings for the spring, call (510) 643-7143 for more information.

League of Women Voters of the Bay Area

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area publishes the Bay Area Monitor, a bimonthly newsletter, whose stated mission is to "provide an impartial, independent view of agency decisions and activities and other important Bay Area issues." Land use and transportation planning, sustainability, and air quality issues have been recent newsletter topics. Their newsletter is a must for planners seeking informed accounts of regional issues. For more information, contact the LWVBA at (925) 283-7093.

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 (408) 868-1231.





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This inspiring brochure gives examples of the roles individuals can play in the planning process to make their voices heard. Perfect as a primer for planning commissions, city councils, and citizen groups, this pamphlet shows that planning can work for everyone.



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NORTHERN SECTION CALENDAR

April

- 8 Bay Bridge Design Task Force, Oakland
- 9 East Bay RAC Get-Together, Walnut Creek
- 15 Bay Bridge Engineering and Design Advisory Panel, Oakland
- 16 "Taking a Look at the New Look of the Bay Bridge Eastern Span", San Francisco
- 16 North Bay RAC Get-Together, Santa Rosa

APRIL						
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May

- 7 NSCCAPA Board Meeting, Oakland
- 7-10 California Preservation Foundation Conference, Berkeley
- 9 UC Berkeley DCRP 50th Anniversary Jubilee Forum on "The Future of Everything", Wurster Hall
Jubilee Ball, Berkeley City Club
- 14-15 UC Davis Extension Public Finance Classes
- 15 Central Bay RAC Get-Together, San Francisco

MAY						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Board Meeting Location

NSCCAPA Board meetings are held at ABAG Headquarters, located within the Bort MetroCenter at the intersection of 8th and Oak Streets in Oakland, adjacent to the Lake Merritt BART Station. Other 1998 meeting dates are: July 9, September 3, and November 5. All interested are welcome at these meetings!



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