



Northern News

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION, CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, NORTHERN SECTION

SJSU students work for Gulf Coast Jobs Act

By Emy Mendoza, University Liaison, Northern Section

A San José State University professor and his students are planning to spend 2008 campaigning for HR 4048, the Gulf Coast Civic Works Act.

Associate professor Scott Myers-Lipton helped draft the bill, which was introduced by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-San José) and cosponsored by Representatives Charlie Melancon (D-Napoleonville, LA) and Gene Taylor (D-Bay St. Louis, MS). HR 4048 was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor in November and needs sponsors. California members of the committee include George Miller (D-Martinez; Contra Costa/Alameda Counties) and Lynn Woolsey (D-Petaluma; Marin/Sonoma Counties). Myers-Lipton hopes to solicit a high volume of letters and emails to Representatives Miller and Woolsey and other committee members, asking them to hold hearings on the bill.

Myers-Lipton and his students have created the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project (GCCWP) to build support for the bill. Modeled after the WPA (FDR's depression-era federal public works program), HR 4048 would create 100,000 jobs in New Orleans and Gulf Coast cities by building schools, hospitals, fire and police stations, parks, and libraries.

Myers-Lipton and 20 students flew to New Orleans on January 7th for a week of meetings with other Gulf Coast activists. The San José students are sponsoring a Super-Tuesday (February 5th) Mardi Gras on the SJSU campus, with activities such as mask-making from 9 AM – 12 PM. A noon jazz procession is planned to bring attention to New Orleans and the lack of mention among the presidential candidates about the area's continuing needs.

For more information on ways to support the bill and the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project, contact Associate Professor Scott Myers-Lipton, smlipton@sjsu.edu, or 510-508-5382.

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How to help

The GCCWP could use all the help they can get to inform planners and students about the issues and generate support for the bill. Here's how you can help:

Read the bill. Go to <http://www.thomas.gov>, and search under bill number for HR 4048.

Email or call and ask your Representative to cosponsor HR 4048. Congress members in the area covered by Northern Section include:

District 1, Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena

District 6, Lynn Woolsey, D-Petaluma
(Member, Committee on Education and Labor)

District 7, George Miller, D-Martinez
(Member, Committee on Education and Labor)

District 8, Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco

District 9, Barbara Lee, D-Oakland

District 10, Ellen Tauscher, D-Alamo

District 11, Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton

District 12, Tom Lantos, D-San Mateo

District 13, Pete Stark, D-Fremont

District 14, Anna Eshoo, D-Atherton

District 15, Mike Honda, D-San José

District 17, Sam Farr, D-Carmel

Visit the GCCWP website, <http://www.solvingpoverty.com>. A link in the left column (http://www.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizationsORG/GCCivicWorks/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=12094) will let you edit a draft email to your Representative.

Read more about the student project: "Professor, Students Campaign for their HR 4048 Jobs Act," by Dana Hull, San José Mercury News, December 31, 2007.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_7848249?nlick_check=1 ■

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

By Juan Borrelli, AICP, SNI Senior Planner, City of San José

The Northern Section Board holds its annual retreat in January (this year on Saturday, January 26, in Santa Clara). At the retreat, we review the prior year's goals and what we accomplished for the Section, and adopt new goals and a budget to address the membership's needs and the events planned for the coming year. The retreat and every Northern Section Board meeting are open to any current member. See the calendar, [page 19](#), for details. Please contact me at juan.borrelli@sanjoseca.gov, or **Darcy Kremin, AICP**, at dkremin@entrix.com if you would like to attend.

Having just hosted the largest ever—and most successful—conference in California Chapter (American Planning Association) history in 2007 in San José, Northern Section looks forward to an eventful 2008. There are eight sections in the California Chapter (Central, Central Coast, Inland Empire, Los Angeles, Northern, Orange, Sacramento Valley, and San Diego), and each, in turn, hosts the State conference. (For a map of the sections, see <http://www.calapa.org/attachments/contentmanagers/19/CCAPA%20Sections%20Map.pdf>) Earnings from the conference are distributed to the sections according to which Section hosted. Our portion of the 2007 conference earnings will ensure that Northern Section can host many events and award many scholarships over the next eight years.

Many thanks to **Gulsum Rostemoglu** for her work as the Section's Legislative Director since September 2007. She stepped down from the appointed position to move south with her family, and we wish her well in San Diego. If you are interested in joining the Northern Section Board as Legislative Director, please contact me at juan.borrelli@sanjoseca.gov.

I attended the Chapter Board retreat in scenic Half Moon Bay early in January. The retreat focused on what we need to do, as a professional planning organization, to continue to grow and excel over the next 10 years. The Board focused on improving communication with the membership, among the eight sections, and with National APA. The Board also discussed growing the leadership, growing and maintaining the membership, strengthening relationships with universities with accredited and non-accredited planning programs, improving

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Onward and upward



Elizabeth Caraker, AICP, formerly planning services manager for the City of Marina, has joined RBF's Monterey Bay office as a Senior Planner and Senior Associate. Ms. Caraker

holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Cal Poly SLO and a Master in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon. She has worked for several public agencies since 1993.



Congratulations to **Hing Wong, AICP**, Senior Regional Planner at ABAG, who has been elected Vice President for Administration, American Planning Association, California

Chapter. As he moves up to VP, Hing steps down as the chapter's Membership Inclusion Director. Hing has served on the Northern Section Board for more than 10 years, and will continue on the Board through 2008 as the Immediate Past Director of Northern Section. ■

DIRECTOR'S NOTE *(continued from previous page)*

outreach to planning commissioners and planning directors, building alliances and strengthening relationships with planning-related affiliations and organizations, and focusing on the branding and promotion of planning in California. Exciting improvements and changes from the Chapter Board will be unveiled in future issues of *Cal Planner* and on the Chapter website.



Half Moon Bay Coast

We all know that 2008 is a leap year, with 366 days instead of the usual 365. Leap years are needed to keep the calendar working properly so that it's in alignment with the earth's seasons and its motion around the sun. The Egyptians were the first to add a leap day every four years. The Romans adopted the idea for their calendar and became the first to designate February 29 as the intercalary or "leap" day. This year, February starts and ends on a Friday, for a total of five Fridays this month. For those who look forward to Fridays and weekends, you'll have plenty of opportunities to say "TGIF." The last time February had five Fridays was in 1980, and the next time will be in 2036. Enjoy the extra Friday in February, have fun, and prosper in 2008! ■

Designing projects to protect water quality

By Sarah Sutton, ASLA, and Laura Prickett, AICP

In November 2007, a 900-foot container ship collided with the Bay Bridge and dumped 58,000 gallons of fuel into San Francisco Bay. The event riveted media attention to the plight of the Bay's fragile ecosystem and inspired a public outpouring of help. How many planners realize that, everyday, their jobs provide opportunities to help keep pollutants out of the Bay and local creeks? This article examines the ways.

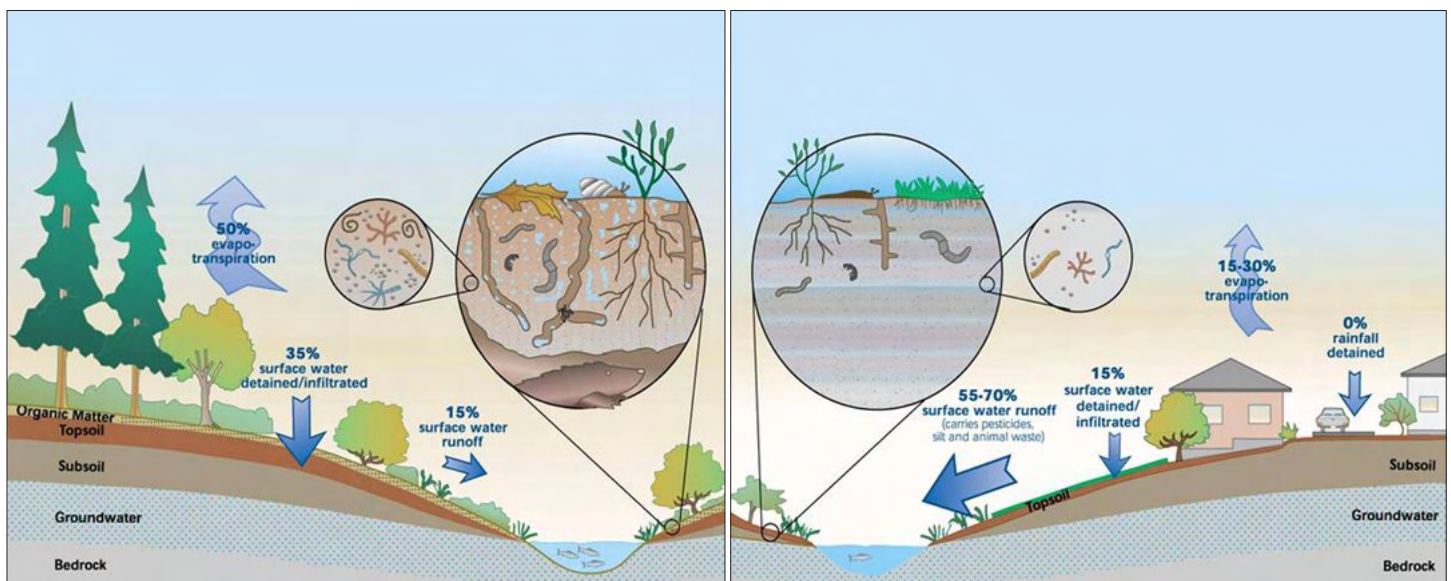
I. Development and water quality—making the connection

Stormwater runoff is the largest conveyance of waterway pollution in the nation. With very few exceptions, the stormwater runoff from most roadways, rooftops, and other impervious surfaces flows into storm drains and conveys many pollutants directly into creeks and other natural water bodies, without receiving any water quality treatment. Since the early 1990s, local agencies in designated urbanized areas—including urbanized portions of the San Francisco Bay Area—have been required to control stormwater pollution by complying with municipal stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, issued by the State's Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Water Boards).

Throughout California, many municipal stormwater permits have recently been reissued or amended to include more specific requirements

for including post-construction stormwater controls in new development and redevelopment projects, to reduce the long-term impacts on water quality and beneficial uses. Post-construction stormwater controls are permanent project features or operational activities that reduce water quality and erosion impacts throughout the life of the project. These are not to be confused with construction phase “best management practices” (BMPs)—think straw wattles and silt fences—that are required in Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs), which reduce water quality impacts during construction. Rather, post-construction controls are designed and implemented to reduce water quality impacts **after** construction is complete. Post-construction controls can be grouped into four categories (listed according to the relative ease of implementation): site design measures, source controls, stormwater treatment measures, and hydromodification management (HM) measures.

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Photos 1 and 2: Relationship between soil and water. King County Department of Natural Resources (See page 8)

LETTERS

Congratulations on a stunning e-newsletter! Attractive, easy to navigate, and loaded with timely and interesting content. As a former Norte Californiano, I enjoy keeping up on planning news from the Bay Area and beyond.

I got a real chuckle from your article on Sustainable Salmon. Some of the work our agency is involved with concerns the health and sustainability of native, wild salmon runs. In this context, “sustainable” means that the fish return in adequate numbers each cycle to meet subsistence, sport fishing, and commercial uses, which requires careful management of the resource to ensure that enough fish make it through all of those nets and hooks to actually spawn and propagate the species. The advent of fish farming threatens this delicate balance. To attach the “sustainable” label to farm-raised fish is the ultimate in irony.

Anyway, keep up the great work that Northern Section APA is doing with the newsletter, events, education, and services to members and communities.

Mitzi Barker, FAICP

Director, Rural Housing and Planning Division
Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.
Anchorage ■

Designing projects to protect water quality

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II. Implementing post-construction stormwater controls

1. Site design measures are site planning techniques that maximize pervious areas and minimize runoff. These techniques may also be called “low impact development,” or LID. Examples of site design measures include reducing impervious surfaces, draining rooftop downspouts to splash blocks or “bubblers,” and using landscaping for storm drainage and treatment.

2. Source controls are features of the project design or operational activities that prevent potential pollutant sources from contacting rainfall and stormwater. Examples of source controls include roofed trash enclosures, pest-resistant landscaping design and management, and sanitary sewer drains for vehicle wash areas (with sewer district approval).

3. Stormwater treatment measures are engineered systems that remove pollutants before stormwater reaches the storm drain system, local creeks, and other receiving waters. Municipal stormwater NPDES permits specify hydraulic sizing criteria for stormwater treatment measures. Examples of treatment measures include vegetated swales, flow-through planters, and extended detention basins. These are all landscape-based treatment measures that use natural processes in vegetated areas to remove pollutants. Non-landscape-based treatment measures, such as media filters and hydrodynamic separators, may also be used where appropriate. In 2004 the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board staff went on record that landscape-based treatment measures are preferred, based on research that indicates better overall performance for landscape-based treatment measures than for non-landscape-based treatment measures.

4. Hydromodification management (HM) measures are required in designated areas to prevent development-induced erosion that can result from hydromodification—the changes in timing and volume of runoff from a site. When impervious surfaces are built, they increase the rate and volume of stormwater, which can often lead to creek bed and bank erosion. These flows are also called channel-forming discharge, or erosive flows. To reduce erosive flows, HM measures are implemented to control the post-construction flow rate and duration of runoff, which is achieved primarily through onsite detention.

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JOBS



CITY OF COTATI, CALIFORNIA

Director of Community Development

Salary: \$7,961 – \$9,677 /mo.

Plus excellent benefits

Cotati is located in the beautiful wine country of Northern California, 45 miles north of San Francisco. This charming city, with a population of approximately 7,300, is currently seeking professional, qualified applicants for the Director of Community Development position.

The Director has responsibility for developing and implementing planning policies and programs and for the management of the City's planning, building, housing, economic development and redevelopment related activities. The incumbent implements and enforces State and federal planning, building, affordable housing and redevelopment laws, rules and regulations. Additionally, the incumbent is responsible for accomplishing the City's community development goals and objectives in an effective, cost efficient manner. Responsibilities include developing departmental goals, supervising staff, and oversight of consultants, in addition to representing the City in a variety of meetings.

For education requirements, job description, and details about Cotati's excellent benefit package please go to www.ci.cotati.ca.us.

The position of Director of Community Development will remain open until filled. Interested applicants are encouraged to **apply prior to February 15, 2008** at 5:00 PM. For further information and to obtain an application form, please go to the City's website listed above. EOE/ADA ■

Designing projects to protect water quality

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III. Understanding current stormwater regulations

What does all this mean to the planner, designer, and or agency representative? Specific requirements vary depending on which municipal stormwater permit applies in the jurisdiction.

The more urban, non-combined sewer overflow (non-CSO) municipalities in the San Francisco Bay Area must comply with Phase I municipal stormwater permits issued by the Regional Water Board. Smaller urban areas, as designated by the State Water Resources Control Board, must comply with a statewide Phase II municipal stormwater general permit. All of these permits include requirements for post-construction stormwater controls in new development and redevelopment projects, but the specifics of the requirements vary.

In Bay Area jurisdictions with Phase I municipal stormwater permits, all development projects regardless of size should consider appropriate site design and source control measures. Projects that create and/or replace 10,000 square feet or more of impervious surface must include appropriate site design measures and source controls, and hydraulic treatment measures must be sized to treat stormwater runoff from frequent, small storms. Many of the Phase I permits now include requirements for hydromodification management, which apply to projects located in susceptible areas that create and/or replace one acre or more of impervious surfaces. Typically these designs must be prepared by a qualified professional for approval during the entitlement phase of a project. Municipal stormwater permits include some exceptions to the requirements to implement stormwater treatment and hydromodification management. It is advisable to contact the local jurisdiction and refer to the applicable permit to review the exceptions.

To achieve greater uniformity in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Regional Water Board has released a Phase I Municipal Regional Permit (MRP) Tentative Order for public review and comments. The Tentative Order increases the stringency of requirements in the previous municipal stormwater permits and may be viewed at www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/mrp.htm.

The public comment period for the Tentative Order has been extended to February 29, and the public hearing to receive comments has been rescheduled for March 11. More information is available on the MRP website.

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Way to go green, Marin!

The Marin County Sustainability Program has been selected to receive APA's National Award of Excellence. The county sustainability program—initiated in May 1999—led to the establishment of several energy, green building, green business, climate change and similar initiatives administered by the Marin County Community Development Agency. The award, given in the “implementation category,” acknowledged the substantial contributions of several departments—community development, public works, agriculture, farm advisor, parks and open space, health and human services—in working towards a more sustainable future. Representatives from Marin County will receive the award at a luncheon ceremony April 30 during APA's National Planning Conference in Las Vegas.

Read the full press release at http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/cd/main/fm/cwpdocs/APA_NEWS_RELEASE.pdf. Read about all the APA national award winners at <http://www.planning.org/awards/2008winners.htm>

For more information, contact Alex Hinds, ahinds@co.marin.ca.us, or Dawn Weisz, dweisz@co.marin.ca.us ■

Designing projects to protect water quality

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When the MRP is adopted by the Regional Water Board (likely in May 2008 or later), it will replace existing Phase I permits throughout the region. The Tentative Order includes provisions that, in 2010, would reduce the threshold for stormwater treatment from 10,000 square feet to 5,000 for auto service facilities, retail gasoline outlets, restaurants, and parking lots.

The section of the Phase I permits in the Bay Area that lists the post-construction stormwater requirements is “Provision C.3” (many practitioners in the Bay Area refer to them as “C.3 requirements”). It's important to remember, however, that the term “C.3” only applies to Bay Area, Phase I municipalities. “Post-construction stormwater controls” is a more generic term that will apply regardless of which municipal stormwater permit applies to a particular project.

IV. Applying a holistic approach to stormwater planning and design

As planners and designers, we should always step back and consider the larger environmental context, and so it is when evaluating onsite stormwater treatment options. It is critical that we not simply replace the old “gray infrastructure” approach with new tools and formulas. For example, the focus should not be solely on replacing parking lot catch basins and underground piping with carefully measured and calculated vegetated swales and infiltration planters. Instead we must consider how our projects fit within the overall watershed, and the potential for multiple environmental benefits.

The King County diagrams (*see page 5, photos 1 and 2*) illustrate the impact of development on watershed health and stormwater runoff. The undisturbed land effectively captures rainfall through evapotranspiration from soil and vegetation, and infiltration into the soil. Note the healthy soil structure rich with micro and macro organisms. The soil, with an abundance of organic matter, acts like a sponge, soaking up as much as 35 percent of the runoff, while also filtering and removing impurities before the water reaches adjacent streams.

The built environment, by contrast, greatly alters the entire ecology of the watershed. Buildings, impervious paving, and reduced plant cover substantially increase the pollutant-carrying runoff that flows directly into our waterways. The shallow, compacted, and virtually lifeless soil structure can be almost as impervious as pavement.

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Photo 3: Grasses. Source: www.flickr.com



Photo 4: Sedges. Source: www.flickr.com



Photo 5: Rushes. Source: www.flickr.com

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In addition to runoff impacts, conventional land development — by removing vegetation, compacting soils, and increasing impervious cover — degrades air quality, generates excessive waste, reduces vegetative cover and viable habitat, and contributes to global warming. The goal of stormwater management, and sustainable development as a whole, should be to reintroduce the ecological benefits of the natural environment through an integrated, multi-objective approach. With each project, we need to view the landscape as a complete ecosystem and select our stormwater measures accordingly.

V. Site specific solutions to site stormwater management

Applying this holistic lens to onsite stormwater management, the following approaches are most appropriate within urban development. When considering treatment options, start with the overall ecological context and invite the civil engineer and landscape architect to the table early in the design process. (Trying to shoehorn a bioswale into a 6-foot perimeter planting buffer, or a rain garden into a parking median after the project site plan is finalized, is often more costly to the owner and usually less effective.)

1. Vegetated swales — which can also be referred to as bioswales or grassy swales — are the most common and least costly approach to managing stormwater flows. More than simply a linear planted strip with a depression down the center, a vegetated swale is generally constructed with well-draining import material, a subsurface perforated drain line, drain rock, and filter fabric. Trees need to be kept out of the flowline, or center, of the swale and at least four to six feet away from the adjacent curb or paving. Curbs can be either flush with the paving or have cutouts sized and spaced to allow water to enter the swale, without causing erosion in the process. The size of the treatment zone can be estimated at approximately 4 percent of the surrounding impervious area. (*See photos 3, 4, and 5*)

The plants selected for bioswales must tolerate inundation in rainy months, yet also tolerate drought during the dry months, to avoid excessive irrigation demands. Grasses, sedges and rushes are most suitable in the zone of periodic inundation, require little maintenance, and are also very attractive plants. (*See photo 6*)

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Photo 6: The rainwater leaders from the roof of this multifamily housing unit in Cotati cross under the adjacent pathway and empty into the vegetated swale—a great example of using a physical element, such as a pathway, to separate the neater foundation planting from the more natural (and often weedy) appearance of a drainage swale.

Source: Marc Richmond, Practica Consulting



Photo 7: ReMax parking lot, Fremont.

Photo: Sarah Sutton



Photo 8: Precast unit pavers capture runoff through openings. Photo: Sarah Sutton

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Standard irrigated and mowed turf in bioswales should be avoided as the extra water demand and chemical inputs from fertilizing and mowing far outweigh the benefits. More drought-tolerant turf substitutes — including the Creeping Red Fescue shown in this parking lot swale (see photo 7)— are a better solution and require less water and little or no mowing. In this example, the well-defined pedestrian bridge crossings protect the plantings, while allowing for water flow underneath. The width of the median, however, does not allow adequate space for trees — there needs to be enough room to keep them out of the middle of the swale without placing the trunks too close to the curbs. In addition, the curb cuts appear too narrow to capture all of the runoff.

2. Permeable paving. Given the often limited landscape space in urban developments, permeable paving can be a very effective solution. A wide variety of materials is available including permeable concrete, permeable asphalt, permeable precast unit pavers, and loosely graded gravel with a structural “geogrid” support matrix. Rather than rely on the underlying soil to absorb the runoff, which is often poorly draining heavy clay, a layer of porous aggregate base material is placed directly under the pavement on top of the standard load-bearing aggregate base. The cross-section must be carefully engineered, based on the underlying soil type and expected loading. Deepened curbs will prevent the stored water from migrating under adjacent nonporous paving.

Engineers are often wary of specifying permeable paving—it is counterintuitive to traditional roadway design which focuses on keeping the subgrade dry. One option is to install permeable material along the parking strip, or within parking bays, where the traffic loading and turning is limited. Some precast unit pavers are designed to lock together and be primarily self-supporting (see photo 8). The Interlocking Concrete Paving Institute (www.icpi.org), the Concrete Promotion Council of Northern California (www.cpcnc.org), and the California Asphalt Pavement Association (<http://www.californiapavements.org/stormwater.html>) can provide additional design guidance and technical support.

Permeable paving not only captures runoff; it can also neutralize some pollutants. Studies have shown that the anaerobic bacteria residing in the porous sub-base are able to break down the hydrocarbons into harmless compounds.

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Photo 9: A modular green roof system is a viable alternative to custom installations.
Source: www.greenroofblocks.com



Photo 10: Flow-through planter.
Source: City of Portland 2004 Stormwater Manual

Designing projects to protect water quality

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3. Green roofs are an extremely effective stormwater management tool that can also provide multiple environmental benefits, including carbon sequestration, energy conservation, heat island reduction, and creation of wildlife habitat. The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) installed a green roof atop their Washington DC headquarters in 2006. From July 2006 to May 2007, the green roof captured nearly 75 percent (27,500 gallons) of all precipitation on the roof. Roof runoff only occurred during rainfalls that exceeded one inch, or during repeated heavy rains. The runoff was also much cleaner and contained fewer pollutants than typical rooftop runoff. (See photo 9)

The green roof also lowered air temperature by as much as 32 degrees F in the summer when compared to a neighboring tarred roof, which helped to mitigate the urban heat island effect and lowered the energy demand for cooling.

The potential to create viable habitat for endangered species is being tested on a rooftop in the 59-unit Casa Feliz development in San José. First Community Housing, a non-profit developer of affordable housing, is installing a green “living roof” with native plants selected specifically to provide habitat for the endangered Bay Checkerspot Butterfly. (<http://www.firsthousing.org/news20060324SJBusJrnl.html>)

The cost of installing a green roof is often viewed as prohibitive. When considering the long-term benefits including increased lifespan of the roof, its insulating properties, and reduced heating and cooling costs, the cost savings can be considerable.

4. Flow-through planters are self-contained, constructed planters that store and filter runoff. When constructing immediately adjacent to a building to treat roof runoff, it is critical to work closely with the architect. The planters are built and waterproofed independently and require a solid bottom, which protects the building foundation but does not provide direct infiltration or recharge groundwater. (See photo 10)

In placing the planters, consider sun and shade patterns. Plants adjacent to the north side of a building will have a tough time surviving and likely turn into a moss or mud garden or both.

A general rule of thumb for sizing flow-through planters is 4 percent of the tributary area. For example, a 5,000 square foot roof area would require a 200 square foot planter. Grouping planters around the building foundation can collectively capture and treat a sizable roof area.

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Photos 11 and 12: Portland's "Greenstreets" successfully incorporate rain gardens along roadway parking strips. Breaks in planting allow access to vehicles. Source: Shay Boutillier



Photo 13: Rain gardens can be whimsical. Downspouts empty onto kinetic sculptures in this Portland feature. Source: Shay Boutillier

Designing projects to protect water quality

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5. Rain Gardens—also referred to as bioretention areas—use soil and plants to capture runoff and to filter pollutants. These systems require layers of imported permeable planting soil and drainage media, impermeable liners, and underdrains to ensure proper drainage and avoid ponding. A grassy, perimeter buffer strip filters the runoff before it is detained in the planter. Like the flow-through planters, these areas can be sized at approximately 4 percent of the area to be treated, which allows for efficient treatment in a small space. As with any of the landscape based solutions, placement should allow sufficient sunlight for the plants to thrive. *(See photos 11, 12, and 13)*

6. Tree well filters are precast units filled with engineered media designed with a high infiltration rate, allowing a large zone of impervious surface to be treated in a relatively small area. The containers are planted with a small tree or large shrub to further uptake runoff. The units are best suited where space is limited and must be located parallel to roadways and water flow. *(See photo 14)* Although the use of plant material provides additional filtration and improves aesthetics, the enclosed container does not allow for direct infiltration into the water table. Also note that larger shade canopy or street trees are not suitable because root area is limited. Although the photo may portray what resembles a tree grate, this filter is not a tree grate substitute.

While initial installation cost is relatively high, the system is designed to be a turnkey, pre-engineered system, providing some savings in design and engineering costs. The capacity of each unit is pre-calculated, and easily translates to square feet of impervious surface to be treated. For example, Filterra, a manufacturer of tree well filters, states that a 6x6 filter can treat 0.3 acres of impervious surface.

7. Infiltration trenches are long, narrow, excavated trenches backfilled with stone aggregate and lined with filter fabric. Runoff is stored in the stone layer and slowly infiltrates into the subsoil below, filtering pollutants and recharging groundwater. The trenches must be lined with buffer strips of grasses, swales, or bioretention basins to ensure that sediments in the runoff do not fill up the voids in the stone. The trenches may also require perforated drainlines, and they perform best in well-draining subsoils. *(See photo 15)*

(continued on next page)



Photos 14: Filterra Tree Well Filter.
Source: Filterra



Photo 15: This infiltration trench with a cobble bed, lined along the perimeter with fine textured grasses to filter sediment and pollutants, remains an attractive arroyo-like landscape feature during the dry season. Source: Marc Richmond, Practica Consulting



Photos 16: Educational signage at StopWaste.Org noting water supply for irrigation

Designing projects to protect water quality

(continued from previous page)

8. Media filters are often recommended in tight urban developments. They require only limited space, can be installed in paved areas, and can be sized to treat all of the site runoff. This option, however, does not contribute any positive benefits to the site ecology. Most agencies will only accept media filters as a treatment measure when the developer demonstrates that plant- and soil-based treatments are infeasible.

9. Cisterns. While not specifically a stormwater treatment tool, capturing and reusing rainwater from rooftops can provide positive benefits including stormwater retention and infiltration when applied to the landscape over time. In our wet winter/dry summer climate, storage is the limiting factor; however, there usually are sufficient dry spells throughout the rainy season to require supplemental irrigation of the landscape, which in turn allows cisterns to be filled and drained throughout the year. In dense urban developments, where landscaping usually covers a small percentage of the site, it is possible to capture sufficient winter runoff to irrigate the plantings, especially if drought-tolerant natives and Mediterranean species are used. The cistern at the StopWaste.Org headquarters in Oakland, for example, is able to irrigate its entire patio garden with the water captured in this cistern mounted on the side of the building. *(See photos 16 and 17)*

VI. Conclusion

Stormwater runoff is the primary conveyance of waterway pollution. Sediment is a key pollutant that impairs many local water bodies and also conveys other pollutants that bind with fine sediments. Managing stormwater runoff onsite is critical to minimizing stream erosion, filtering pollution, and recharging groundwater. Key recommendations include:

- Take a multi-objective, holistic approach to the design of onsite stormwater retention and treatment. Reintroduce natural functions and processes into the urban fabric.
- Be creative! Rather than look at stormwater management as yet another costly hurdle in the development process, look for ways to celebrate our precious, seasonal rainfall. This custom downspout, for example, offers a whimsical and effective approach to slowing the roof runoff. *(See photo 18)*
- Include the engineers and landscape architects when evaluating stormwater options early in the project. Often the most cost-effective solution can be achieved by simply

(continued on next page)



Photo 17: Cistern attached to the outside wall of *StopWaste.Org* headquarters in Oakland



Photos 18: Creative modification to a standard downspout slows roof runoff

Designing projects to protect water quality

(continued from previous page)

shifting a building footprint a few feet, or adjusting the parking layout.

- Advocate for increased stormwater funding and incentives. Many cities offer an expedited permitting process to developers installing green roofs, permeable paving, or other innovative approaches to offset increased installation costs. Grants, subsidies, and reduced infrastructure fees can also stimulate interest in maximizing the number of sustainable elements in a project.
- Share your successes and “lessons learned” with your colleagues. Onsite stormwater management is a relatively new science, and more data are needed to better evaluate effectiveness, compare costs, and gain a better understanding of tradeoffs and benefits.

VII. References

California Stormwater Quality Association. 2003. *New Development and Redevelopment Best Management Practices (BMP) Handbook*.

Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program. 2006. *C.3 Stormwater Technical Guidance*.

Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA). 1999. *Start at the Source*.

About the authors

Sarah Sutton, ASLA, is a Principal with the consulting firm Design, Community & Environment in Berkeley, where she participates in all aspects of sustainable design, construction, and watershed planning. She is a licensed Landscape Architect and a LEED-certified professional with over 20 years of experience in public and private sector design. She was a key contributor to the planting guidelines for the *Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program’s C.3 Stormwater Technical Guidance Handbook*.

Laura Prickett, AICP, is a Senior Planner with the consulting firm EOA, Inc., in Oakland, where she assists municipalities and countywide stormwater programs in complying with a wide range of municipal stormwater permit requirements. She has 12 years of public and private planning experience in design review, environmental review and permitting, and stormwater compliance. Laura regularly organizes stormwater training workshops for municipal staff and was the primary author of comprehensive technical guidance on post-construction stormwater controls for the Alameda and San Mateo countywide stormwater programs and for the Santa Rosa area in Sonoma County. ■

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What Happens in  is *Planned* in Vegas!

Register online for the 100th National APA conference

By Naphtali H. Knox, FAICP

LAS VEGAS 08 provides Northern California planners an opportunity to attend a national APA conference close to home. This year the conference reception is on Monday evening and the closing session is Thursday noon.

The conference promises 64 mobile workshops, 335 (!) program sessions, and 15 “fun” events. I’m particularly interested in how Nevada will plan for sustainability (27 sessions) and scarce water resources (6 sessions).

Register online for a new and interesting experience.

Log in at www.planning.org. Clicking on the LAS VEGAS 08 photo takes you to <http://www.planning.org/nationalconference/>. At the upper left, click on “Schedule,” which opens four choices. Among them “Suggested Schedules” lets you select from 26 ready-made tracks. “My Conference Schedule” lets you build your own personal schedule. Find a session you like, click for a full description, and click again to add it to your schedule. I found myself juggling indoor sessions and mobile workshops, returning often to “Conference Activities,” which lists everything at the conference by eight “types” — sessions, poster sessions, meetings, mobile workshops, training and GIS workshops, child care, orientation tours, and events. I also used the advance search, which has a drop-down list of 97 (!) key words and phrases.

Whichever schedule you choose, the registration process tracks the total CM credits AICP members will earn and estimates the costs for add-ons (like mobile workshops). You can revise your selections to raise the number of CM credits or reduce your cost. If you’re building your own schedule, a section of the “calendar view” of the schedule turns red to warn you if any of your choices overlap, and provides a link to the “list view” which highlights the conflicting sessions in red letters. You simply trash one to revise your program; then save.

I took a break to figure out my travel. Once I’d decided on travel days and hotel nights, I went back to <http://www.planning.org/nationalconference/>, logged in, and selected “my conference schedule.” I found all my selections as I had last left them. You won’t want to miss the conference, so start planning now! You can also register without a schedule. ■



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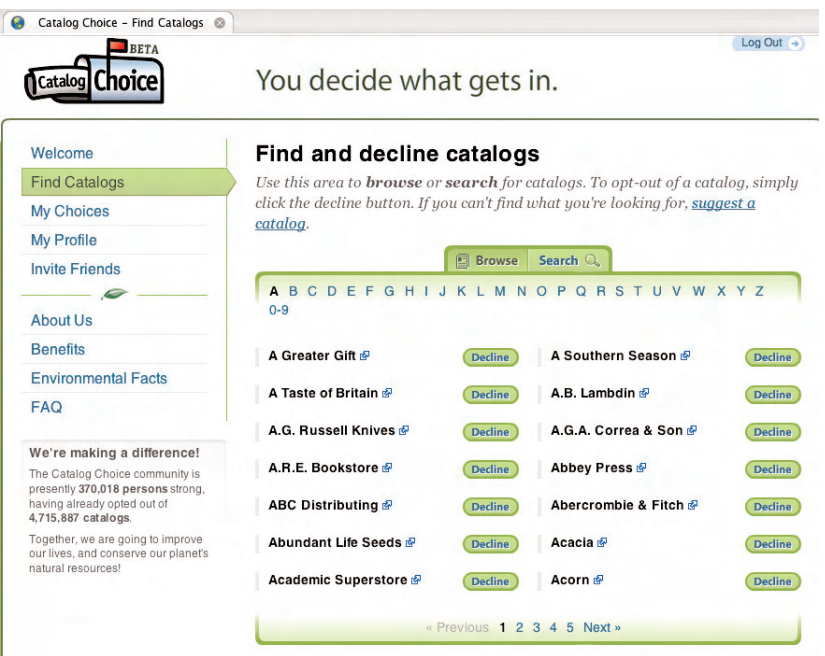
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Catalog opt-out is catching on

Last month we reported on two websites individuals can visit to drastically reduce the number of unsolicited catalogs they receive (“Going green: Stopping unwanted mail,” *Northern News*, December-January, page 17).

GreenDimes.com offers the service for a basic annual fee of \$20. **CatalogChoice.org** offers a free service.

The *San José Mercury News* has provided a third (free) choice—the Direct Marketing Association, **dmchoice.org**—and this update: “Catalog Choice in mid-November was reporting that 148,000 consumers had requested to be taken off the lists for almost 1.5 million catalog mailings.” By year-end, “almost 350,000 people had asked to opt out of almost 4.3 million catalogs.”



Catalog Choice - Find Catalogs

Log Out

Catalog Choice BETA

You decide what gets in.

Welcome

- Find Catalogs
- My Choices
- My Profile
- Invite Friends
- About Us
- Benefits
- Environmental Facts
- FAQ

Find and decline catalogs

Use this area to **browse** or **search** for catalogs. To opt-out of a catalog, simply click the decline button. If you can't find what you're looking for, [suggest a catalog](#).

Browse Search

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
0-9

A Greater Gift	A Southern Season
A Taste of Britain	A.B. Lambdin
A.G. Russell Knives	A.G.A. Correa & Son
A.R.E. Bookstore	Abbey Press
ABC Distributing	Abercrombie & Fitch
Abundant Life Seeds	Acacia
Academic Superstore	Acorn

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There’s apparently some “tension between Catalog Choice and the DMA [but] part of the fallout is an effort by the DMA to improve its own opt-out service.” Read the full article, “Retail Ink: What’s the best way to opt out of catalog mail?” by Mike Antonucci, *Mercury News*, January 4, 2008.

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_7879315?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com&nclick_check=1 ■



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More Kelo fallout: Remember Prop 90?

It appears that two competing constitutional amendments to restrict eminent domain have qualified for the June 3, 2008, Statewide Direct Primary ballot.

One, the California Property Owners and Farmland Protection Act, is sponsored by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, California Farm Bureau, and others. (Owners of apartment buildings and mobile home parks provided 80 percent of the money to gather signatures to put the initiative on the ballot.)

The initiative, which qualified on January 16, would prohibit State and local governments from using eminent domain to transfer property to private developers. By all measures, it seems to be an anti-rent-control initiative hiding behind eminent domain reform. It includes language that strengthens the rights of property owners, makes it easier to evict tenants, and prohibits rent control and similar measures. And it would permit the owner of the condemned property to repurchase at the condemned price if the property is put to substantially different use than was publicly stated.

A second initiative, sponsored by the League of California Cities, the California League of Conservation Voters, and the League of California Homeowners is not as restrictive. It would bar State and local governments from using eminent domain to acquire owner-occupied residences and duplexes for transfer to a private person or business entity. Both initiatives make exceptions for public works, public health and safety, and crime prevention. *Stay tuned.* ■

Where in the world?



By Chandler Lee, AICP. Answer on page 18



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NORTHERN SECTION CALENDAR

2008 NSCCAPA Awards applications are or will soon be available at www.norcalapa.org. Categories include Outstanding Planning, Leadership and Service, Planning Achievement, Journalism/Media, and Planning Landmark or Pioneer. Only the first place winners of section awards will be eligible to be nominated for California Chapter awards. Applications are due by 5:00 PM, Thursday, March 21, 2008. Materials received after this date will be not be accepted and will not be returned.

JANUARY

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JANUARY

- 1/25 Spring Speaker Series, SJSU Urban Planning Coalition.** Noon to 1 PM, San José State University, Clark Hall, Fishbowl Room 100H. **Brandi de Garmeaux, "City Planning for Global Warming"**. This is the first program in a monthly series of speakers on "Perspectives in Planning." Other sessions are on February 22, March 21 and April 25. For more information or to express an interest in speaking, contact Taryn Hanano, taryn.hanano@gmail.com
- 1/26 NSCCAPA Board Retreat.** 10 AM – 3 PM. City of Santa Clara, Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara. APA members welcome. RSVP Darcy Kremin, dkremin@entrix.com or 925-988-1278

FEBRUARY

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FEBRUARY

- 2/9 AICP Test Preparation.** Six sessions, 10 AM – 3 PM, San José State University King Library, Room 525 – Cultural Heritage Center, 4th and San Fernando, San José. Materials charge is \$50 – 75. Remaining sessions are March 1, March 22, April 12, and May 3. Call Don Bradley, AICP Director, 650-592-0915 or email dr.donbradley@comcast.net with your name, email, phone numbers, and any questions.
- 2/22 Spring Speaker Series, SJSU Urban Planning Coalition.** Noon to 1 PM, San José State University, Clark Hall, Fishbowl Room 100H. Speaker and topic TBA. Second in a monthly series of speakers on "Perspectives in Planning." Remaining sessions are March 21 and April 25. For more information or to express an interest in speaking, contact Taryn Hanano, taryn.hanano@gmail.com
- 2/29 Date changed from Feb. 1. Comments due on new Municipal Regional (Stormwater) Permit, Tentative Order.** The Permit is available at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/mrp.htm>. Written comments must be submitted to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board by 5:00 PM. Comments may be submitted electronically to mrp@waterboards.ca.gov

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MARCH

**3/1,
3/22**

AICP Test Preparation

10 AM – 3 PM, San José State University King Library, Room 525 – Cultural Heritage Center, 4th and San Fernando, San José. Materials charge is \$50 – 75. Remaining sessions are March 22, April 12, and May 3. Call Don Bradley, AICP Director, 650-592-0915 or email dr.donbradley@comcast.net with your name, email, phone numbers, and any questions.

3/6

NSCCAPA Board Meeting

6:30 – 8:30 PM. Location to be determined. For more information, contact Juan Borrelli, juan.borrelli@sanjoseca.gov or 408-535-7709.

3/5-7

Third National Summit on Equitable Development, Social Justice, & Smart Growth

New Orleans. Hosted by PolicyLink, Regional Equity '08 will offer participants in-depth exploration of the groundbreaking achievements, innovative strategies, and lasting policies that connect low-income/low-wealth communities to resources and opportunities. Register at www.regionalequity08.org, or email dsm@policylink.org for more information.

3/11

Date changed from Feb. 13. Public hearing on new Municipal Regional Permit Tentative Order

9:00 AM (approximate start time), Elihu M. Harris State Building, First Floor Auditorium, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland. Schedule may be found at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/mrp.htm> under the heading, "Extension of Public Comment Period for the Tentative Order."

3/21

Spring Speaker Series, SJSU Urban Planning Coalition

Noon to 1 PM, San José State University, Clark Hall, Fishbowl Room 100H. Speaker and topic TBA. Third in a monthly series of speakers on "Perspectives in Planning." Final session is April 25th. For more information or to express an interest in speaking, contact Taryn Hanano, taryn.hanano@gmail.com

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MARCH

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3/21 **2008 NSCCAPA Awards applications are or will soon be available** at www.norcalapa.org. Categories include Outstanding Planning, Leadership and Service, Planning Achievement, Journalism/Media, and Planning Landmark or Pioneer. Only the first place winners of section awards will be eligible to be nominated for California Chapter awards. Applications are due by 5:00 PM, Thursday, March 21, 2008. The 2008 Northern Section Awards will be presented on Friday, May 16, at the Argonaut Hotel in the Cannery Building, Fisherman’s Wharf, San Francisco. Questions? Contact Andrea Ouse, andrea.ouse@lsa-assoc.com or Eileen Whitty, ewhitty@ebmud.com

3/25–28 **Changing Climates, 2008 NAEP/AEP Joint Conference**
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APRIL

4/12 **AICP Test Preparation**
10 AM – 3 PM, San José State University King Library, Room 525 – Cultural Heritage Center, 4th and San Fernando, San José. Materials charge is \$50 – 75. The last of six sessions is May 3rd.

4/25 **Spring Speaker Series, SJSU Urban Planning Coalition**
Noon to 1 PM, San José State University, Clark Hall, Fishbowl Room 100H. Speaker and topic TBA. Fourth and last in a monthly series of speakers on “Perspectives in Planning.” For more information or to express an interest in speaking, contact Taryn Hanano, taryn.hanano@gmail.com

MAY

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4/27 – 5/1 **APA National Planning Conference**
Paris and Bally’s Hotels, Las Vegas, Nevada. An opportunity to learn and see planning practice in action. Mobile workshops provide a living-laboratory experience in the host city and surrounding region. AICP members earn CM credits for participating in sessions and mobile workshops. Register online at www.planning.org. *(See article on page 15)*

5/16 **2008 Northern Section Awards**
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