



# NORTHERN NEWS



American Planning Association  
California Chapter  
Northern  
Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Northern Section of the California Chapter of APA

## NOVEMBER 2010

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## Sustainable infill development—a planner/developer's perspective

Mark Rhoades, AICP

Between 1970 and 1995, a net total of 400 dwelling units were built in Berkeley. In the mid 1990s, a local developer started to apply tools for more efficient development in the urban context—chiefly rooftop open spaces and parking lifts. Incorporating those ideas, the City of Berkeley planning staff assembled an infill development program consisting of existing General Plan policies, flexible zoning standards, the Permit Streamlining Act, State Density Bonus Law, Government Code Section 65589.5 (restrictions on disapproval of housing developments), and CEQA.

The program yielded results quickly. Some 1,350 units were built between 1997 and 2007, and another 1,500 are in the pipeline. And the infill program won awards. APA California–Northern Section gave the program its 2003 award for Planning Implementation–Large Jurisdiction; and the same year, the California Chapter gave the program its Distinguished Leadership Award.

**Berkeley's story** is relevant because SB 375 (2008's "climate change smart growth bill") will necessitate that the planning and development professions and local decision-makers work together constructively to achieve California's goals for making cities more livable and for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

As a planner/developer, I have sat on both sides of the table. I left the public sector at the City of Berkeley three years ago to apply 20 years of city planning experience to developing place-making, sustainable, infill projects. My first project as a partner at Citycentric Investments is Parker Place, a proposal to redevelop 60,000 square feet of land—just south of downtown on Shattuck Avenue—with 155 dwelling units and 22,000 square feet of retail space with basement parking. Project features include:

- Adaptive reuse of a 90-year old car dealership structure
- On-site storm water retention
- Curb inlets to receive storm water runoff from the street
- A 20 percent inclusionary housing component (despite the recent *Palmer* decision) of 31 units for households at 60 percent Annual Median Income or less
- Free transit passes for every unit
- Car share pods
- Less than one parking space per unit
- Electric vehicle parking
- Public plazas

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<b>Ethics Review Director</b> Colette Meunier, AICP	(707) 748-4453	<a href="mailto:Colette.Meunier@mindspring.com">Colette.Meunier@mindspring.com</a>
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<b>Planning Diversity Associate Director</b> Miroo Desai, AICP	(510) 596-3785	<a href="mailto:mdesai@ci.emeryville.ca.us">mdesai@ci.emeryville.ca.us</a>
<b>Professional Development Director</b> Tania Sheyner, AICP	(415) 896-5900	<a href="mailto:tsheyner@esassoc.com">tsheyner@esassoc.com</a>
<b>Student Representatives</b> Kim Lucas Sara Billing	(540) 270-7572 (510) 703-5896	<a href="mailto:kimluca@gmail.com">kimluca@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:yosarab@yahoo.com">yosarab@yahoo.com</a>
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<b>Co-Webmasters</b> Pierce Macdonald Raquel Paniagua	(510) 459-6092 (707) 363-9725	<a href="mailto:piercemac@hotmail.com">piercemac@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:raquelpaniagua@gmail.com">raquelpaniagua@gmail.com</a>
<b>Young Planners Group Directors</b> Lindsey Virdeh Natalie De Leon	(650) 235-5004 (408) 313-2662	<a href="mailto:lindseyahill@yahoo.com">lindseyahill@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:natdeleon@sbcglobal.net">natdeleon@sbcglobal.net</a>

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<b>North Bay</b> Ladd Miyasaki	(707) 935-3145	<a href="mailto:ladd@sonomaecologycenter.org">ladd@sonomaecologycenter.org</a>
<b>Peninsula</b> Surachita Bose, AICP	(650) 393-4481	<a href="mailto:surachitab@gmail.com">surachitab@gmail.com</a>
<b>Redwood Coast</b> Stephen Avis, AICP	(707) 725-1407	<a href="mailto:savis@ci.fortuna.ca.us">savis@ci.fortuna.ca.us</a>
<b>San Francisco</b> Daniel Serrano	(619) 850-1527	<a href="mailto:serranochile@hotmail.com">serranochile@hotmail.com</a>
<b>South Bay</b> Katja Irvin, AICP	(408) 569-8214	<a href="mailto:katja.irvin@sbcglobal.net">katja.irvin@sbcglobal.net</a>

(Directory continues, next page)

## Sustainable infill development—a planner/developer's perspective *(continued from previous page)*

- 130 bicycle parking spaces
- Bike workshop, and
- LEED gold or platinum certification.

Does Berkeley have such rigorous standards?" No. We designed them into the project because we believe development should deliver environmental and community benefits, and with careful pre-planning, can do so with a solid internal rate of return.

Berkeley's development review process is notorious. Yet Parker Place was entitled in less than 16 months, a record for a project of its size in Berkeley. Even so, the project was the subject of nine noticed public hearings before the Design Review Committee, Landmarks Preservation Commission, and Zoning Adjustments Board. Citycentric voluntarily held more than a dozen meetings in living rooms in the project neighborhood.



Existing site, aerial view from North (screen capture from Google Earth)



Proposed development, overhead perspective from North

*(continued on next page)*

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

### Editorial

Naphtali H. Knox, FAICP  
Tel: (415) 699-7333  
[knoxnaph@gmail.com](mailto:knoxnaph@gmail.com)

Mika Miyasato, AICP  
Associate Editor  
Tel: (510) 587-8677  
[mmiyasato@hntb.com](mailto:mmiyasato@hntb.com)

Caroline Teng  
Associate Editor  
Tel: (909) 967-5400  
[carolineteng@gmail.com](mailto:carolineteng@gmail.com)

### Advertising Director/Jobs

Hannah Young, AICP  
Tel: (510) 847-9936  
[hannahyoung.mrp@gmail.com](mailto:hannahyoung.mrp@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Designer

Nancy Roberts  
Tel: (408) 723-3200  
[tproberts@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tproberts@sbcglobal.net)

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Membership Department  
APA National Headquarters  
205 North Michigan Ave, Suite 1200  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Tel: (312) 431-9100  
[www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)

The American Planning Association, California Chapter Northern, offers membership to city and regional planners and associated professionals primarily living or working in California, from Monterey County to Del Norte County, including the nine county San Francisco Bay Area and Lake and San Benito Counties. APA California Northern promotes planning-related continuing education and social functions in order to:

- Provide an arena for communication and exchange of information about planning related activities;
- Raise member awareness and involvement in APA affairs;
- Increase public awareness of the importance of planning;
- Encourage professionalism in the conduct of its members; and
- Foster a sense of community among the members.

APA California Northern publishes *Northern News* online in PDF 10 times each year as a medium for the exchange of ideas and information among its members. Circulation (complete web downloads per issue) is 8,500.

*Northern News* welcomes comments. Letters to the editor require the author's first and last name, home or work street address and phone number (neither of which will be published), and professional affiliation or title (which will be published only with the author's permission). All letters are subject to editing. Letters over 250 words are not considered.

The deadline for submitting materials for inclusion in *Northern News* is the 15th day of the month prior to publication.

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## Sustainable infill development—a planner/developer's perspective *(continued from previous page)*

In the end, the project received unanimous approvals from the Zoning Adjustments Board and the Design Review Committee—firsts in Berkeley for a project of this size. Additionally, the project is the largest in Berkeley's history to receive an exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act because of its design, location, and environmental attributes. The project was endorsed by Greenbelt Alliance, TransForm, and Berkeley Design Advocates. Despite all of that, a group of disgruntled citizens filed a City Council appeal even though they never participated in the public hearing process.

The appeal was denied by the Council, but the appellants (not adjacent to the project) intend to file suit relevant to the CEQA determination and their perception of a procedural issue. However, the project will still move forward and is expected to break ground in late 2011 or early 2012.

All of this shows that even robust community and environmental benefits cannot counteract the psychology of "no change." Even so, we planners have to be committed to the principles that create livable cities and respond to the needs and issues of our day. We have the opportunity to shape projects when an applicant comes in for entitlements. Standards and guidelines must be followed, but there is room for planners to ensure that development improves our communities and is environmentally responsible. If we allow our recommendations to be subject to neighborhood whims, however, or yield to the agents of "no change," we aren't doing our jobs.

Cities can no longer take either an anti-growth stance or allow developers to build projects that are not responsive to environmental issues. Planners and developers need to work together proactively to meet California's environmental goals, and decision-makers need to be prepared to justify their land use decisions to their citizens. SB 375 has only put an exclamation point on the process.

*Mark Rhoades was Berkeley's City Planning Manager from 1997 to 2007. He founded Citycentric Investments in 2007 with partner Ali Kashani, founder of Affordable Housing Associates. Citycentric does development, and development and planning consulting. [www.citycentric.net](http://www.citycentric.net)* ■

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

By Darcy Kremin, AICP

On October 13, I had the pleasure to represent Northern Section at an American Planning Association national event which designated the Ferry Building as one of the 10 Great Public Spaces for 2010 under the organization's *Great Places in America* program. It made me proud to live and work in the Bay Area, and to be surrounded by great planners who make great things possible. I hope you have an opportunity to visit the Ferry Building for either the first or thousandth time in the near future. It truly deserves this award. See article on [page 14](#).



In other award news, the Section has been selected as the APA California Section Activity award winner for our International Program. See article on [page 12](#). I hope to see you in Carlsbad to celebrate with all the winners.

The 2010 Holiday Party will be held on **Friday, December 3**, at the Farmers Market Bistro in Oakland. As always, we will have a drawing for the **California Planning Foundation** to benefit students who are pursuing degrees in planning. Please contact me if you would like to donate an item or simply contribute to CPF for the Holiday Party. No donation is too big or too small. For more information about making a contribution, please contact CPF Liaison **Hing Wong, AICP**, at (510) 464-7966 or [hingw@abag.ca.gov](mailto:hingw@abag.ca.gov).

We would like to thank **Christina Ratcliffe, AICP**, for her work as our Professional Development Co-Director. This was actually Christina's second stint in the position. Christina is stepping down due to family obligations and a new job. We look forward to seeing her at our future events. **Tania Sheyner, AICP**, will continue on as our sole Professional Development Director. We hope it's a one-person task now that the CM process has stabilized.

If you want to become more involved with your professional association, please contact me at [darcy.kremin@cardno.com](mailto:darcy.kremin@cardno.com). We are always looking for event and committee volunteers, and may have board openings available, too.

Please remember to vote in the Section's upcoming elections for Director-Elect and Administrative Director. See [page 8](#) for candidate statements. ■

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Darcy Kremin'.



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## Homelessness costs and interventions

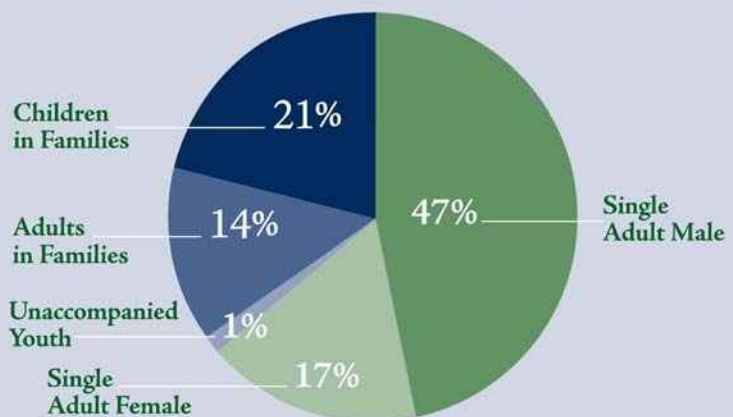
From HUD USER, [www.huduser.org](http://www.huduser.org)

Three recent studies on homelessness in the United States examine the cost of first-time homelessness, strategies for improving access to mainstream benefits and services, and life after transitional housing for homeless families. Published in March 2010, all are available from HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research.

### Costs associated with first-time homelessness for families and individuals (<http://bit.ly/bPYMIF>)

Past research has primarily documented costs associated with homelessness for individuals with chronic patterns of homelessness or severe mental illness. Newer work has been published on the costs incurred within the homeless system for families experiencing first-time homelessness. This study provides additional findings that help to improve our understanding of homelessness and its associated costs. It presents ideas about opportunities for cost savings, and it advances an approach for measuring costs that, coupled with other evaluation methods, can help communities understand the cost-effectiveness of different homelessness interventions.

### Sheltered Homeless Persons by Households



Source: *The 2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, p. D-2 (Oct. 2008 through Sept. 2009).*

The study examines the costs of housing and serving nearly 9,000 individuals and families in six areas of the country. Overall, the study shows that the experience of homelessness is diverse and the associated costs vary, depending on the pattern of homelessness, household type, and type of response. This comprehensive research associated with first-time homelessness creates a foundation for comparing the costs of various homeless interventions and establishes that:

- For homeless individuals, emergency shelter is typically the least expensive response and transitional housing is the most expensive.

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## Homelessness costs and interventions *(continued from previous page)*

- For homeless families, emergency shelters and transitional housing programs were equally expensive, usually due to the amount of services families receive in both program models and the higher cost of providing families with accommodations that have a greater degree of privacy than individuals require.
- Permanent supportive housing for both individuals and families is less expensive to the homeless assistance response system, as service costs are borne by other systems, such as Food Stamp or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs.

### Strategies for improving people's access to mainstream benefits and services (<http://bit.ly/bxCEZu>)

HUD has been funding transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and related supportive services projects for homeless people since 1988. When HUD began funding these projects under its Supportive Housing Program (SHP) as competitive grants, and later (starting in 1996) through the Continuum of Care (CoC) process, it gave applicants discretion to use HUD homeless funds for whatever mix of eligible activities they preferred. As a result, by 2000, nearly 60 percent of HUD homeless funds were being used by communities for services such as daycare and drug treatment, while the remaining funds were used for housing.

This study documents how seven different communities mobilized to improve homeless people's access to mainstream benefits and services such as Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Medicaid. Results were mixed:

- Communities with the greatest success had a strong central organization intent on improving access of homeless persons to mainstream services.
- Communities were usually able to reduce structural barriers to benefits (such as physical access, complexity and length of application processes) and rules for documenting eligibility.
- Communities were less successful in overcoming barriers beyond their control, such as eligibility requirements for various programs and limited capacity of mainstream service providers.
- Communities have developed innovative ways to overcome barriers to mainstream benefits, but some barriers can only be resolved with state or federal involvement.

### Life after Transitional Housing for homeless families (<http://bit.ly/b4G5Rh>)

Federal legislation to support the development of transitional housing programs for homeless people (TH) was first introduced in 1986, and ultimately incorporated into the first Stewart B. McKinney Act in 1987 as part of HUD's Supportive Housing Program (SHP). HUD's division of Community Planning and Development has had responsibility for the SHP since 1989, when a new administration brought all the McKinney Act housing programs together within the new Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, which manages and directs the program.

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## Homelessness costs and interventions *(continued from previous page)*

By 1996 there were about 4,400 transitional housing programs offering about 160,000 beds. By 2007 there were almost 7,300 transitional housing programs offering about 211,000 beds. About 53 percent of the TH beds reported in 2007 are designated for families, creating a capacity to serve about 40,000 families at a time.

This study followed 195 families in transitional housing programs across five communities (in Ohio, Michigan, Texas, San Diego City and County, and Seattle/King County) for three, six, and 12 months after leaving the program in an effort to document the impacts of participation in a transitional housing program. The study looks at housing status, employment, and education outcomes associated with the service-intensive transitional housing programs for families with children. The study found:

- Individuals benefited from educational and employment opportunities that help change life circumstances.
- Children benefited from having fewer moves and school changes.
- Families leaving transitional housing moved to their own place, and 60 percent remained in their homes 12 months later.
- No relationship was established between the number of barriers to stability that a family faces, the length of stay in transitional housing, and the outcomes of the stay.
- Families with relatively few challenges remained in transitional housing for long durations and may be using such assistance while waiting for subsidized housing to become available.

The goal of homeless assistance is to create a system of response that is mindful of the many reasons why an individual or family might find themselves at the front door of an emergency shelter. A good response system includes development of effective interventions that provide the necessary amounts and types of housing services to stabilize people, while ensuring that they will be able to obtain and retain housing in the future. At the same time, limited resources for housing and services must be allocated efficiently.

The three studies highlighted above can inform the design of a responsive homeless assistance system. For some, supportive services will be critical to ensuring future housing stability. For many, housing assistance is all that is needed to exit the homeless assistance system. By properly targeting the most intensive and highest cost interventions to those most likely to benefit from them and freeing resources needed for other lower cost interventions, such as housing subsidies, families with the greatest need can access transitional housing. ■

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## Vote for Director-Elect and Administrative Director

It is time to vote for the Director-Elect and Administrative Director positions on the APA California Chapter Northern Section Board. Both positions will serve a two-year term beginning January 1, 2011, and ending December 31, 2012. The Director-Elect will assume the Section Director position after two years. Both positions hold key leadership roles on a very active board that has grown to close to 40 members. All APA Northern Section members will be receiving a ballot by e-mail during the week of November 8. Deadline for voting will be November 30. Please take a moment to show your support for the Board by casting your vote. Running for the Director-Elect position is Allen Tai, AICP, and running for the Administrative Director position is Justin Meek. Below are their candidate statements.



### Allen Tai, AICP

It is an honor to be considered for the position of Director-Elect for the APA California Northern Section. In making the decision to run for Director-Elect, I wish to fulfill the obligation we all share to contribute to the ongoing development of the planning profession.

Since joining the Northern Section as Administrative Director in 2008, I provided administrative support at board meetings, ceremonies, and official APA functions. My approach centered on improving access to critical information that our members rely on by increasing communication through the *Northern News* newsletter, the bi-weekly eNews distribution, and the Northern Section website. These efforts fostered member participation at APA events in the past two years, and the number of functions sponsored by the Northern Section has grown dramatically during the same time.

As Director-Elect, my goal will be to build on the excellent work of our current board in expanding the range of resources offered to our membership. I will pursue strategies to better disseminate information on jobs and events and adhere to frequent updates of information by taking advantage of online tools and social media. I will work to advance APA by reaching out to students, new and seasoned professionals, and related professions to promote interdisciplinary collaboration. I will also attempt to strengthen APA's relationship with all planners and promote APA as the primary source for general information, networking, training, and job opportunities. And in tough economic times, I will look for ways to increase sponsorships and revenue to support APA functions.

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## Vote for Director-Elect and Administrative Director

*(continued from previous page)*

The AICP Certification Maintenance requirement has made programs offered by APA more important than ever. If elected, I will place emphasis on developing programs on climate change, green building, social marketing, and other topics of current importance. In order to support our members in obtaining these credits, as well as to provide valuable knowledge, assistance, and guidance, I will direct resources to support programs and events that supply these needed opportunities. I believe my professional experience as a planner and past history serving on the Board will make me the best candidate to lead such an effort. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of my candidacy.

**Professional Experience.** I earned my Bachelor's degree in Urban Planning from the University of Southern California and my Master's degree from San José State University. I have 10 years of combined public sector experience working for the cities of Alameda and San José. My expertise includes growth management, economic development, CEQA, housing, design review, as well as airport land use planning. I am a strong advocate of the environmental movement, and after attaining LEED Accredited Professional status, I transitioned to work in San José's Integrated Waste Management Division. I currently supervise a team of environmental professionals responsible for overseeing the City's residential zero waste program on an annual budget of \$100 million. I stay involved in planning by teaching a course on urban growth management at the San José State University.



### Justin Meek

I have had the good fortune to represent San José State University on the Board over the past year and am honored to submit this statement of candidacy for the Administrative Director for the APA California Northern Section. In making this decision to apply for the position, I wish to continue the great work of Allen Tai and contribute substantially to the ongoing development of the planning profession.

In the past year, I have actively involved myself in a number of APA events. At SJSU, I organized a series of CM-accredited speaking engagements on current planning topics for students and professionals to attend. One of them saw the attendance of over 300 individuals to hear Donald Shoup discuss the high price of free parking. Another one, a joint speaking engagement between SJSU's Urban Planning Coalition and APA's South Bay RAC, gave me the distinct pleasure

*(continued on next page)*

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## Vote for Director-Elect and Administrative Director *(continued from previous page)*

of working with Katja Irvin, who I am presently helping coordinate a social event in Los Gatos. Recently, I also helped Lindsey Virdeh organize a Young Planners Group walking tour in downtown Santa Cruz. Because of Katja, Lindsey, and several other dedicated individuals, these events were very successful. If elected to the Board, I look forward to continuing to be active and will work diligently as the Administrative Director. I am excited at the opportunity to serve the planning profession and be a part of APA California-Northern Section's efforts to promote and inspire APA members.

**Professional Experience.** In the seven years at RBF Consulting, I had the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of CEQA working on a wide range of projects. My desire for greater understanding of the planning profession and exposure to different kinds of work led me to complete a master of urban and regional planning at SJSU. In addition to acting as the campus' APA Student Representative, while at SJSU I interned with the Town of Los Gatos, Mineta Transportation Institute, and Greenbelt Alliance. Currently, I am working with a former professor on publishing a parking utilization survey for TOD residential properties and presenting the findings with VTA staff to cities throughout Santa Clara County. ■

## Where in the world?



Photo by Tom Ford, AICP (Answer on [page 16](#))

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# Mentorship Program, APA California – Northern

Are you a planner with hidden talents? Northern Section has a new Mentorship program. We are seeking mentors who would like to play an inspiring role in the career of a young planner. Share your knowledge and talents with a new professional and help form a budding career. Professional planners of all experience levels and in all planning disciplines are encouraged to become mentors.

For students and young professionals interested in working with a mentor: We will open the mentee application in November; watch for announcements. Check the Section's website ([norcalapa.org](http://norcalapa.org)) to download a mentee application.

## Program details

- The mentorship program officially begins at a meet-and-greet in January 2011 (*date/time/location TBD*).
- We request participants (mentors and mentees) commit to the program for six months.
- Participants have the option of corresponding via phone, email, or in person, but we recommend meeting at least once a month for the duration of the program. Participants are encouraged to coordinate meetings to fit their own schedules.
- Mentor and mentee will be matched based on common interests and career goals, as determined from the applications.
- Mentees will be planning or planning-related students or young professionals.

To enroll in the Mentorship Program, or if you have questions, contact Andrew Waggoner at [awaggonera@gmail.com](mailto:awaggonera@gmail.com).

## Important updates

- **Enrollment period for all participants:**  
Ends December 7, 2010
- **Mentor/Mentee Meet and Greet:**  
January 2011 (details TBD)
- **Program Kickoff:** January 2011
- **Mentorship Program conclusion and final survey:**  
June 2011

# Northern Section wins APA California Chapter Activity Award for International Program

Section Director **Darcy Kremin, AICP**, is pleased to announce that Northern was chosen for this year's Section Activity award. Recognized this year are Northern Section's International Director (**Rob Eastwood, AICP**, Senior Planner, Santa Clara County), the International Committee, and **Jennifer Andersen, AICP**, who preceded Rob as International Director. The award is presented annually at the Chapter Awards luncheon at the state conference, with Darcy and Rob accepting this year on behalf of the Section.

That the Northern Section Board includes an International Director position which oversees the International Committee is in itself unique. The position and committee do not exist within other APA California Sections (and probably not within other APA Chapters).

The purpose of the International Director/International Committee is to foster exchange between American planners and their counterparts in other countries. Communities within the US continue to become more diverse with immigrants from a multitude of countries and cultural backgrounds. At the same time, many developing countries and industrialized nations face challenges and opportunities associated with urbanization, suburbanization, and sustainability similar to those experienced in communities here. In the context of increased globalization, the need to foster a cross-cultural dialogue and an exchange of experiences and ideas between urban planners of different countries and cultures is increasingly critical.

Over the past seven years, Northern Section's International Director and International Committee initiated several activities to increase cross-cultural exchange. These have included educational tours abroad, an International Internship program, and several lectures.

- Northern Section planned and sponsored three educational Urban Planning Tours—to Cuba (2003), China (2007), and India (2009). Each tour combined tourism with lectures, workshops, and meetings with local planners and planning-related professionals to discuss and exchange ideas on urban planning.
- As a result of the Urban Planning Tour of India, the International Director/International Committee forged a partnership with HCP Project Design and Management in Ahmedabad—a large urban planning and design firm that provides a variety of urban planning and design services in India's Gujarat Region—to provide paid internships for young and emerging urban planning professionals from the United States.
- The International Director/International Committee sponsored several lectures focusing on international

planning issues. The 2006 International Planning Lecture Series in San José included topics on jobs in international planning, community development in Columbia, and a panel on urban planning and development in China. In 2010, the International Committee sponsored a lecture by Nimish Patel, an architect visiting from India, on the topic of green building and heritage conservation.

More than a few deserve credit for the success of the International program. As Jennifer Andersen, AICP, said in an October 5, 2010, email to the Northern Section Board:

"Many people had a hand in making the International Committee work, from [former Section Director] **Jeri Ram, AICP**, who encouraged me to lead it, to all the members who agreed to come and help plan events. Everyone is important to this kind of effort, as it is a lot of work and takes a great deal of coordination and participation. I have not been able to be involved in the International Committee for quite a while, but am gratified to know that it kept going when I could not and has won this recognition."

Those privileged to make the trips have shared their positive feelings:

"These opportunities for California planners to gain insights into the world's two largest countries would never have been possible without Northern Section's outstanding efforts and support, and, in particular, the heroic efforts of Rob Eastwood in contacting local officials and hotels at all hours of the day and night. Most importantly, members of the committee with contacts in China and India arranged for us to meet with local officials and others who were knowledgeable about urban development there."—*Barbara Kautz, FAICP*

"The urban planning tour of India was the planner's 'trip of a lifetime'—in effect, three trips in one. The first focused on meeting with government officials, planners, engineers, and technocrats. The second had us absorb the flavor of India's culture, architecture and people. The third was about interacting and forging collegial relationships."—*Alex Hinds*

"The India trip was transformative for attendees. We saw staggering poverty, and we visited stunningly effective planning programs, like the Bus Rapid Transit in Ahmedabad. We returned with a greater appreciation for the culture and experience of Indians living in California communities."—*Elaine Costello, FAICP* ■

## **\$194 million grant to California High-Speed Rail.**

The California High-Speed Rail Authority announced on September 30th that it was awarded a \$194 million grant by the Federal Railroad Administration for preliminary engineering and environmental analysis. The Authority said the funds are needed to complete environmental review. The \$194 million—to be matched dollar for dollar with state funds—will be used for “ongoing environmental work and preliminary engineering in the segments connecting San Francisco to Los Angeles and Anaheim via the Central Valley.”

**Governor’s veto may assure flow of State funds.** “With a stroke of his line-veto pen, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger killed a budget provision that would have forced the California High-Speed Rail Authority to improve its business plan and strengthen its outreach efforts by Feb. 1 or have about a quarter of its annual budget withheld. Schwarzenegger’s veto deals a blow to efforts by Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, and other state legislators to hold the rail authority accountable after a sequence of audits revealed a myriad of flaws in the agency’s revenue and ridership plans. The penalty for missing the Feb. 1 deadline would have been \$55.32 million in state funding. Simitian said the agency has been doing ‘just barely enough’ to retain legislative support and pointed to a series of critical audits as indications that the authority ‘has come up short in terms of its work to date.’ He said the governor’s veto will make it even more difficult for the agency to restore its credibility with the public.” (Gennady Sheyner, “Schwarzenegger vetoes rail ‘accountability’ stick,” *Palo Alto Weekly*, October 13, 2010. <http://bit.ly/97hOmM>)

**Three Peninsula cities sue HSR over EIR; other cities refrain.** Burlingame, Belmont, Redwood City, and San Mateo stood aside while Atherton, Menlo Park, and Palo Alto sued the California High-Speed Rail Authority over environmental and routing issues. In a lawsuit filed on October 4th in Sacramento Superior Court, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, and Atherton “challenged the environmental assessment for the project, contending it is inadequate in some parts and its ridership projections are inaccurate.” Burlingame, Belmont, and San Mateo took specific action not to join the lawsuit. In Redwood City “no vote was taken, since it appeared the city’s elected leaders were in agreement

not to sue.” “Belmont decided to take a wait-and-see approach on the increasingly high-profile lawsuit, mirroring Burlingame’s decision of September 24 not to join the suit, which seeks to keep bullet trains away from the Peninsula.” (Anthony Myers, “Belmont will not join suit against high-speed authority,” *MercuryNews.com*, September 29, 2010. <http://bit.ly/92JBFt>) Redwood City “council members said they have concerns about the rail project which will bisect their city, [but] used the phrase ‘collaboration, not confrontation’ when describing their strategy for convincing the authority to dig a trench for the bullet trains instead of running them above ground.” (Bonnie Eslinger, “Redwood City won’t join high-speed rail suit,” *The Oakland Tribune*, September 27, 2010. <http://bit.ly/9yeFgy>) “The suit is the second legal challenge Peninsula cities have brought against the project. A judge dismissed [a 2008] suit, but not before ordering the rail authority to revisit the proposed route between San José and San Francisco and adjust its report.” (Jesse Dungan, “Peninsula cities sue to derail high-speed rail project,” *MercuryNews.com*, October 4, 2010. <http://bit.ly/9nbeN1>)

**Conflict of interest: “Two HSR Board members violate state law on ‘incompatibility of public offices.’** Two members of the California High-Speed Rail Authority board of directors could be serving on the board in violation of a state law governing conflicts of interest, according to an April 2010 letter from the state Legislative Counsel Bureau. The letter, obtained the last week of September by a Palo Alto-based rail watchdog group, argues that Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle, who chairs the authority’s board of directors, and Richard Katz, a board member who also sits on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, cannot serve on the statewide board while also holding their positions in Southern California.” (Gennady Sheyner, “Rail officials wrestle with ‘conflict’ finding,” *Palo Alto Online*, September 29, 2010. <http://bit.ly/aAfM9O>)

**Local money, land pledged for HSR maintenance facility.** “The Fresno Council of Governments approved a transfer of \$25 million into a newly created account bolstering efforts to bring a high-speed rail heavy maintenance facility to the area. The money would come from an amendment to Fresno County’s half-cent sales tax. The [transfer] becomes null and void if Fresno County is not selected for the heavy maintenance facility, which is expected to usher in 1,500 new jobs

*(continued on next page)*

as well as millions of dollars in revenues.” (“Vote creates \$25M high-speed rail account,” *The Business Journal*, October 1, 2010.

<http://bit.ly/9oAsQm>) The “Kern County Council of Governments has two sites in the running, [and the] one in Shafter got a big boost October 11th when rail advocates announced that Paramount Farms will donate 180 acres to the California High-Speed Rail Authority if it awards the facility to Shafter. Even giving away the land for free, Paramount stands to gain financially if the Shafter site is chosen. The company owns 1,100 adjacent acres, and peripheral development near the heavy maintenance facility is anticipated.” (Courtenay Edelhart, “Paramount Farms offers land for high-speed rail maintenance facility,” *The Bakersfield Californian*, October 11, 2010. <http://bit.ly/du4wE7>)

**The larger picture.** “Despite some community opposition and money challenges, the head of California’s proposed bullet train said ‘we can and will build this project.’ Roelof van Ark, the CEO of the California High Speed Rail Authority, said the proposed \$42.6 billion project is building needed political support from Washington and Sacramento along with backing from businesses and labor groups, [but] money is the biggest challenge. Although California voters approved nearly \$10 billion in bonds, the project needs to attract \$18 billion in federal taxpayer money and another \$10 billion to \$12 billion from private investors. Until the federal government commits to regular funding, van Ark said, private investors won’t commit to the project. To get money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the train system must start construction by September 2012, and its allotted money must be spent by September 2017.” (Eric Young, “Bullet train ‘will be built,’ CEO pledges,” *San Francisco Business Times*, September 29, 2010.

<http://bit.ly/9JBOzT> ■

## APA designates Ferry Building as Great Public Space



Ferry Building, May 27, 2008. Source: Wikimedia Commons. Photo: JaGa

The American Planning Association has designated San Francisco’s Ferry Building as one of 10 Great Public Spaces for 2010 under APA’s Great Places in America program. Since beginning the program in 2007, APA has designated 40 neighborhoods, 40 streets, and 30 public spaces in 47 states and the District of Columbia. In Northern California, North Beach in San Francisco was designated a Great Neighborhood in 2007.



Ferry Building Nave. Photo: Chandler Lee

Designed by Arthur Page Brown in 1898, the Ferry Building was the second busiest transportation terminal in the world in the early 1930s. Approximately 50,000 people came through the depot daily when commuting by ferry boat was the only way to reach San Francisco from across the bay. The construction of the Bay Bridge and Golden Gate Bridge in the late 1930s and the Embarcadero Freeway in the 1950s pushed the building towards obsolescence.

The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake led to removal of the damaged double-deck Embarcadero Freeway which had physically separated the Ferry Building from downtown San Francisco. Led by the Port of San Francisco and former San Francisco mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr., a waterfront revitalization project was initiated with renovation of the Ferry Building as the primary focus.

The \$110 million project was completed in 2003. The port’s planners enhanced the most unique features of the Ferry Building and its historic grandeur. They restored the 245-foot-tall clock tower—inspired by the 12th century bell tower in the Seville Cathedral of Spain—and re-created the 660-foot-long skylight Nave. Large windows frame views of the San Francisco Bay.

Today, the nationally-registered historic landmark bustles as it did in the thirties. Eight restaurants and cafes, and more than 30 shops line the ground floor. The upper two stories are leased as office space. There’s a farmer’s market three days a week. More than 10,000 commuters a day transit the building. “It’s not just an icon anymore,” said San Francisco Planning Director John Rahaim, “people are using the building again.”

For more information about award-winning public spaces, including lists of the 2010 APA 10 Great Neighborhoods and 10 Great Streets and designations between 2007 and 2009, visit [www.planning.org/greatplaces](http://www.planning.org/greatplaces). ■

# VOTE NO on Prop 23



*Proposition 23 would virtually kill AB 32 and eliminate clean energy standards. Vote NO on November 2—or by absentee ballot before you go to the APA California Chapter conference in Carlsbad.*

As Thomas L. Friedman opined in the New York Times, “The real joke is thinking that if California suspends its climate laws that Mother Nature will also take a time out.” Nate Lewis, a California Institute of Technology energy chemist, told Friedman, “We can wait to solve this problem as long as we want, but Nature is balancing its books every day. It was a record 113 in Los Angeles the other day. There are laws of politics and laws of physics. Only the latter can’t be repealed.” (<http://nyti.ms/9m4dzC>)

Leading groups opposed to Proposition 23 include AARP, American Lung Association in California, California Solar Energy Industries Association, League of Women Voters of California, California League of Conservation Voters, California Clean Energy Fund, and the Natural Resources Defense Council. If passed, Proposition 23 would suspend implementation of California’s Air Pollution Control Law, AB 32. (Think of it as 23 equals 32 backwards.)

The League of Women Voters of California (<http://bit.ly/c8kZq8>) supported the adoption of AB 32, and they support the progress to date of its implementation. The state League and the League of Women Voters of the United States contend that global climate change is a critical issue facing our planet and that the California Air Resources Board has been “thoughtful and reasonable, taking clear steps to reduce the effect of carbon emissions...” The following is an excerpt from the League’s suggested “letter to the editor.”

“Proposition 23 is a measure that would virtually kill the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32). It would suspend the implementation of AB 32 until the state unemployment rate is 5.5 percent or lower for a full year. That has happened only three times in the last four decades!” (The three times were January 1988–December 1989, October 1999–June 2001, and October 2005–June 2007. As the State’s Legislative Analyst’s Office observed based on projected employment levels, “It appears likely that AB 32 would remain suspended for many years.”)

“This dangerous proposition would effectively repeal clean energy and air pollution standards indefinitely and jeopardize dozens of regulations that promote energy efficiency and pollution reduction.”

“Proponents, primarily out-of state oil companies, say this measure is needed to preserve jobs, but in fact it will threaten hundreds of thousands of clean-energy jobs.”

“We must promote California’s role as an innovator and investor in a clean-tech economy.”

The following is excerpted from an October email from CALPIRG (<http://bit.ly/cMK71C>):

“California’s over-dependence on oil harms public health, leaves consumers and businesses susceptible to price spikes, and puts taxpayers at risk of paying for cleaning up environmental disasters like the Gulf oil spill.

“Proposition 23 is a ballot measure written and funded by out-of-state oil companies (including Valero, Tesoro, and the Koch brothers) to keep California dependent on oil by effectively repealing our state’s strong global warming law. They have already committed millions to the campaign, and have the deep pockets to spend tens of millions more. You may have seen their television advertisements.

“Here are three reasons why you should vote NO on Prop 23 on November 2:

“1) **To reduce air pollution:** Prop 23 would let polluters ignore our state’s clean energy and efficiency standards, resulting in more unhealthy air pollution. Already, 91 percent of Californians live in counties that the American Lung Association gives a failing grade to for their unhealthy air quality—and as a result, hundreds of thousands of people have respiratory illnesses.

“2) **To keep saving consumers money:** By increasing efficiency, California’s state energy policies have saved California households \$56 billion between 1972 and 2006. We should keep pushing for cars that go farther on a gallon of gas and homes that can be heated with less electricity.

“3) **To protect the growing clean energy economy in California:** According to California’s Economic Development Department, more than 500,000 Californians are employed in ‘green’ jobs, largely because of our state’s commitments to reducing pollution. Since 2005, California green jobs have grown 10 times faster than the statewide average.”

With AB 32, California has the only plan in the country to promote environmental health while spurring related innovation, explained Friedman. “At a time when President Obama and Congress have failed to pass a clean energy bill, California’s laws are the best thing we have going to stimulate clean-tech in America.”

“Since AB 32 was passed, investors have poured billions of dollars into making new technologies to meet these standards,” wrote Friedman.

**VOTE NO on Prop 23! ■**

## Upcoming membership survey

The Northern Section Board is preparing for its January 2011 Strategy Retreat where it will consider ways to improve membership services and section operation. In advance, we would like to hear what you think the Board should be doing more of, less of, or continue at the same level. In addition, the Board's newly formed Sustainability Committee would like to know what knowledge, skills, and training (or other support) would help you respond effectively to sustainability challenges in your jurisdiction or practice. Some of the survey questions will address this topic.

**Please watch for an email announcing the survey. ■**

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### Answer to "Where in the world?" (Page 10)

Brunei Darussalam. Over-water homes on the Kedayan River and Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque.  
*Photo by Tom Ford, AICP*

## Sustainability Planning accelerates

*Scott T. Edmondson, AICP*

Sustainability challenges are expanding and accelerating. These challenges include extreme weather events, shifting hydrological regimes, ecosystem destabilization, species extinction, pollution, biotoxicity, a fraying social fabric, and ongoing sprawl and auto-dependent development. As a result, planners are recognizing the urgent need for an effective response; the pace of innovation in the APA is quickening (<http://bit.ly/cukifT>); and there are legitimate moves toward sustainable zoning. (See "Sustainable Community Development Code" at <http://bit.ly/ddtjbn>. Scroll down to "Sustainable Zoning, A New Imperative.") Further, the nature and expertise of our profession, with its interdisciplinary and whole-systems focus, suggests a unique leadership role for planners in society's response (see "Planning is Essential," at <http://bit.ly/9ouZiw>).

Are individual planning departments and planners sufficiently equipped for this role? If not, what additional knowledge, skills, and approaches would be required?

Part of the dilemma is that the emerging arena of sustainability contains many options and tools, but little guidance on how to proceed. In addition, the issues and the demands are expanding. In this context, how can planners proceed effectively, particularly in the face of scarce resources (time, staff, and budget)?

Beyond a single-issue tactical approach, success may require reinventing planning—as APA's Chief Executive Officer, W. Paul Farmer, FAICP, suggests. (See "APA Is a Leader of Global Planning" at <http://bit.ly/9ouZiw> and Farmer's co-authored position paper. (Go to <http://bit.ly/9qjpVL> and scroll down to "Reinventing Planning: A New Governance Paradigm for Managing Human Settlements.") The challenge of proceeding effectively is best approached through professional learning networks. Such a network for sustainability planning is emerging within the APA through the Sustaining Places Initiative and Task Force, recently announced by APA President Bruce Knight, FAICP (see <http://bit.ly/9ouZiw>, "Godschalk and Anderson to Co-chair") and the newly formed APA-Sustainable Community Planning Interest Group, <http://bit.ly/bRT511>.

The APA California Chapter Northern Board is also responding. As part of developing next year's work program, the Board authorized a proposal at the September Board meeting to form a small temporary committee of six members. The committee will evaluate the best way the Board can support membership in responding effectively to the sustainability challenge. The committee will propose a program for consideration at the January 2011 Board retreat.

The Northern Section program will augment—not duplicate—existing resources and initiatives. Its purpose will be to support the continued expansion, amplification, and effectiveness of sustainability planning in northern California. Key functions will be integration, synthesis, education, and innovation. The program will likely have two components: (1) a web-based learning and professional practice resource providing online access to key resources, initiatives, training, and knowledge sharing; and (2) a workshop series.

Fellow planners, Northern Section's Sustainability Committee would like to consider your ideas. What do you need to respond effectively to sustainability challenges in your jurisdiction or practice? Please see the announcement on **this page** of the "Upcoming Membership Survey" and be sure to take the survey in November and December. You may also email me your thoughts and/or join the Committee's email list ([scott-e@sustainability2030.com](mailto:scott-e@sustainability2030.com)).

*Scott T. Edmondson, AICP, has practiced planning in the Bay Area for 25 years ([www.sustainability2030.com](http://www.sustainability2030.com)). ■*



## What others are saying

**Say what?** One of the nicest outcomes of my recent European vacation was the freedom from editorial chores, e.g., spending hours correcting English grammar. Shortly after returning to the Bay Area, listening to “all news” KCBS, I heard someone from PETA commenting on a North Carolina research laboratory where animals have been mistreated. “Heart-wrenching,” she called it. And the same afternoon, the KCBS traffic reporter told of an overturn accident on Highway 29 that would soon be cleared because they were sending “a Jeep with a wench”—probably a very strong one. Others also are taking note. In September, Gene Weingarten reported in *The Washington Post* on the death of the English language: “It succumbed last month at the age of 1,617 after a long illness. It is survived by an ignominiously diminished form of itself.” Before you reach out to someone on this subject, you may want to read Mr. Weingarten’s very short article. Indeed, he suggests that “reach out to” is a “vomitous verbal . . . synonym for ‘call on the phone,’ or ‘attempt to contact.’ A jargony phrase bloated with bogus compassion—once the province only of 12-step programs and sensitivity training seminars—‘reach out to’ is now commonplace in newspapers” [and, I dare say, in many of the professional documents we planners read. Ed.] —Gene Weingarten, “Goodbye, cruel words: English. It’s dead to me,” *The Washington Post*, September 19, 2010. <http://bit.ly/dcsAZT>

**When speakerphone is less distracting.** “Ever wonder why overhearing one side of a cell phone conversation can be so irritating—and why you feel compelled to eavesdrop in spite of yourself? Lauren L. Emberson, a Ph.D. candidate in psychology at Cornell University, used to get so distracted by cell phone conversations overheard on the bus that she couldn’t focus on reading. It made her wonder whether hearing only half of a conversation—a ‘halfalogue,’ she calls it—is somehow more disturbing than hearing the whole discussion. Twenty-four students were asked to perform tasks that required constant attention, including tracking a cursor on a screen and pushing a button every time one of four letters appeared on the screen. The volunteers were told to ignore background noise, which alternated between a recorded conversation, a ‘halfalogue,’ a monologue, and silence. The volunteers weren’t distracted by the conversations or the monologue, but their performance on the tasks

was significantly impaired when the ‘halfalogue’ was played, according to the study, published online in *Psychological Science* September 23rd. Ms. Emberson speculated that hearing half a conversation may be distracting because it is less predictable than a dialogue, which has predictable patterns. ‘When speech is unpredictable, we can’t control our brain’s reaction to it—it draws our attention in,’ she said in an interview. ‘It’s harder to understand less predictable speech.’”—Roni Caryn Rabin, Vital Signs, *The New York Times*, September 27, 2010. <http://nyti.ms/9VGCxa>

### **Pulitzer-winning columnist speaks against Prop 23.**

“The next global industrial revolution will be green, and California is well-positioned to benefit from the coming boom, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Thomas Friedman said September 30. But if residents vote to suspend the state’s landmark climate change law, he said, ‘I think it would be a disaster for the state. . . I hope Prop. 23 fails big.’ Friedman, who lives in Maryland and writes a column for *The New York Times*, said that the nation’s green energy sector is ‘exploding with innovation’ but needs a regulatory framework before it can become a major economic movement. Efforts by Congress to pass such an energy bill would have given a boost to the nation’s green industry, but that legislation fizzled due to influence from the nation’s oil lobby, he said. A rollback of California’s climate change law this November could slow down innovation in the state’s budding green sector, he said. It also would allow competitors like China and India to overtake California in green innovation.” —Rick Daysog, “Prop. 23 could kill state’s budding green industry, mayor’s keynote speaker warns,” *Sacramento Bee*, October 1, 2010, <http://bit.ly/chtodl>. **Also see** Thomas L. Friedman, “The terminator vs. Big Oil,” *The New York Times*, October 6, 2010, <http://nyti.ms/9m4dzC>: “What has Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California incensed is the fact that two Texas oil companies with two refineries each in California are financing a campaign to roll back California’s landmark laws to slow global warming and promote clean energy innovation, because it would require the refiners to install new emission-control tools. At a time when President Obama and Congress have failed to pass a clean energy bill, California’s laws are the best thing we have going to stimulate clean-tech in America. We don’t want them gutted. C’mon in. This is a fight worth having.”

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**Municipal tax revenues decline for fourth year.** “City tax revenues dropped this year by the most in 25 years, hit hard by falling home prices that could crimp local budgets for years to come. Property tax revenue in U.S. cities fell 1.8 percent in fiscal year 2010, according to a report by the National League of Cities. It’s the first drop in the 25 years the survey has been conducted. Depressed home values are just beginning to affect property tax receipts and the impact could linger for at least two more years, the report said. The declines are only now being felt because real estate assessments lag changes in market values. Overall, tax revenue fell 3.2 percent in 2010, and cities cut spending by 2.3 percent. One reason cities are suffering is that it’s unusual for both sales taxes and property taxes to fall at the same time, said Michael Pagano, a dean at the University of Illinois at Chicago and co-author of the report. The survey found that 74 percent of cities instituted a hiring freeze this fiscal year, while 54 percent reduced or froze salaries and 35 percent implemented layoffs. Local governments have cut 120,000 jobs since the recession began. Sixty-nine percent of cities have delayed or cancelled infrastructure projects this fiscal year, the report found. Cities in all regions have been hit hard, though many Western cities are struggling with widespread home foreclosures and falling home sales. The report is based on survey responses from 338 cities of all sizes.” —Christopher S. Rugaber, AP Economics Writer, “Housing slump hammers local government tax revenue,” *The Sacramento Bee*, October 6, 2010.

<http://bit.ly/ciM5YX>

**Inner Bay Area housing older than most.** “Judging by the age of their housing stock, Berkeley, San Francisco, and Oakland are the oldest cities west of the Mississippi River region and among the oldest in the nation. More than half of Berkeley and San Francisco households, and nearly 42 percent of Oakland households, are in residences built before World War II, according to statistics released by the U.S. Census Bureau. The housing landscape of today’s Berkeley and Oakland is largely the result of a few decades of rapid growth. Some of it was spurred by San Franciscans moving out of their city after the 1906 earthquake. By the time the postwar housing boom arrived, the cities were almost out of space to expand. San Francisco, bounded by water on three sides, grew until it hit the ocean. Berkeley grew steadily in the 1940s and 1950s and expanded into the hills. The 2009 statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey are estimates from a survey of about 3 million American households. They are also the best national housing statistics available because the full, once-a-decade census no longer asks details about every person’s home. Because they are estimates based on a sample of the population, there is a margin of error that makes the survey less reliable for smaller cities. For instance, the proportion of Berkeley housing built before 1939 could actually range from 47.7 to 54.5 percent.” —Matt O’Brien, *Contra Costa Times*, “Census: Berkeley, San Francisco and Oakland have oldest housing stock in the West.” <http://bit.ly/aHz9fx> ■

# NORTHERN SECTION CALENDAR

To list an event in the Northern Section calendars (*Northern News*, monthly; *eNews*, every two weeks), go to <https://docs.google.com/Doc?docid=0AexaSG3Vebr9ZGR3Z216d3dfMjNoZjZqcjhrbQ&hl=en> to see the required template (at top of page), the current listings, and where to send your formatted item.

## ONGOING

### Planning for Healthy Places with Health Impact

**Assessments.** Now through December 31, 2011. A how-to guide for conducting health impact assessments (HIAs), developed by the American Planning Association and the National Association of County & City Health Officials, and sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This free online course will explain the value of and the steps involved in conducting an HIA. To participate, please visit

<http://professional.captus.com/Planning/hia/default.aspx>.

**CM | up to 6.0**

**Symposium, 1909–2109: Sustaining the Lasting Value of American Planning.** This four-hour symposium on May 21, 2009, brought together federal officials, planners, academics, and grassroots advocates to focus on the achievements of America's first 100 years of planning. See a video of the symposium (free) and earn CM credits. Visit

<http://www.planning.org/centennial/symposium/>

**CM | 4.0** may be earned by viewing all four parts of the symposium video.

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## OCTOBER

**10/21 Energy Planning and Cities: Policy, Programs, and Design.** 6–7:30 PM, San Francisco City Hall Hearing Room 408, One Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco. Light snacks provided. This panel discussion will explore the intersection of planning with energy policy, renewable energy development, and energy efficient neighborhood design. Confirmed panelists include Michele Rodriguez (Program Manager at Bevilacqua Knight, Inc.), Danielle Murray (Renewable Energy Program Manager with the San Francisco Department of Environment), and Isaac Brown (Planning Project Manager, AECOM Design + Planning). Space is limited; please RSVP to Josh Hohn at [jnhohn@gmail.com](mailto:jnhohn@gmail.com)

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**OCTOBER** *(continued)*

- 10/21 Mandatory Stress Mitigation in San Rafael.** 6–8 PM, Broken Drum Brewery & Wood Grill, 1132 4th Street, San Rafael. A social gathering to let your mind unwind with fellow AEP and APA members with the first round of drinks and hors d'oeuvres on us! Sponsored by contributions from ESA (Environmental Science Associates). Free to all AEP and APA Members. For more information, contact AEP SF Bay Chapter Vice President of Programs Michelle Julene at [mjulene@sonoma-county.org](mailto:mjulene@sonoma-county.org) or APA California Northern Section Representative Ladd Miyasaki at [ladd@sonomaecologycenter.org](mailto:ladd@sonomaecologycenter.org)
- 10/22 YPG Santa Cruz Walking Tour: Re-connecting the River to Downtown.** 4–5:30 PM. Meet in front of City Hall, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz. A social event to follow at Soif Wine Bar at 105 Walnut Avenue, Santa Cruz. Elected officials, planning staff, police, and community members will present the myriad of challenges, issues, and opportunities surrounding the efforts to better connect San Lorenzo River and Downtown Santa Cruz. Free. RSVP at <http://tiny.cc/w4nw6> by October 20. Download hand-outs and maps from <http://bit.ly/a8Vkvt>. For more information, contact Lindsey Virdeh at [lindseyahill@yahoo.com](mailto:lindseyahill@yahoo.com) or Justin Meek at [justin.meek@gmail.com](mailto:justin.meek@gmail.com) **CM | 1.5 pending**
- 10/23 AICP Exam Prep Workshop.** 10 AM–4 PM, San José State University. To register, contact Don Bradley, (650) 592-0915 or [dr.donbradley@comcast.net](mailto:dr.donbradley@comcast.net)
- 10/23 TOD Tour in the South Bay/Peninsula.** 9 AM–1 PM, Meet at the Sunnyvale City Hall, 456 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale. The tour will visit downtown Mountain View and Redwood City to explore communities with walkable streets and access to reliable public transit. Speakers include developers, city planners, and the key players involved in selected TOD projects. Free. The tour will provide a bus ride and box lunch. **Space is limited.** RSVP at <http://bit.ly/cqRuP9>. For more information, contact Katja Irvin at [katja.irvin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katja.irvin@sbcglobal.net) or Surachita Bose at [sbose@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us](mailto:sbose@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us) **CM | 2.5 pending**

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**NOVEMBER**

- 11/1-11/4** **APA California 2010 Conference.** La Costa Hotel in Carlsbad. Go to [www.calapa.org](http://www.calapa.org) and click on the conference site for On-line Registration and Room Reservations. For additional assistance, contact Lynne C. Bynder, CMP at [lbynder@meetingsxceptional.com](mailto:lbynder@meetingsxceptional.com)
- 11/6** **Natural Systems & Environmental Sustainability.** Second of six sessions in a Sustainable Development and Climate Change Certificate Program. 8:30 AM–4:30 PM, Environmental Technology Center, Sonoma State University. \$195 per one-day session. Faculty include Alex Hinds, Valentin Alexeeff, FAICP, and Tom Jacobson, AICP. Registration may be completed in-person, by mail, by phone at (707) 664-2394, by fax at (707) 664-2613, or online at [www.sonoma.edu/exed](http://www.sonoma.edu/exed). Students are asked to enroll by the Wednesday before the start of the course. Late registration is accepted only on a case-by-case basis. Further information at <http://bit.ly/9D8HhU>  
**CM | 7.0 per one-day session**
- 11/9** **APA California – Northern, Regular Board Meeting.** 6–9 PM, ABAG, MetroCenter, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland. RSVP to Hanson Hom at [hhom@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us](mailto:hhom@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us)
- 11/13** **Historic Winery Tour and Tasting Social Event!** Noon–3 PM, Testarossa Winery, 300 College Avenue, Los Gatos. Enjoy a tour of the historic Novitiate winery followed by wine and cheese tasting. Discussion materials about historic preservation in Los Gatos will be provided. There will be a short hike following the tasting (optional, weather permitting). Co-sponsored by HMM and the South Bay RAC. \$10 for wine tasting (optional), \$10 for non-members. Space is limited. Reserve your spot early by emailing [katja.irvin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katja.irvin@sbcglobal.net)
- 11/19** **San José State University’s Planning Program Alumni and Friends Event.** 5:30–8:30 PM, Scottish Rite Temple, Corinthian Ballroom, 196 North 3rd Street, Downtown San José. Please join us for a get-together with Alumni and Friends of the SJSU Urban and Regional Planning Program. Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Program, recognize some distinguished faculty, and hear some surprise announcements. Get re-acquainted, have a drink and hors d’oeuvres in a relaxed and informal setting. Cost: \$20 per person for alumni and friends, \$10 for current students. For more information, please visit the event’s website at <http://sjsuplanningalumni.org>

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**DECEMBER**

**12/2 Duke’s Online Master of Environmental Management – Information Session & Reception.** 6:30–8 PM, Mayer Brown LLP, 3000 El Camino Real, Suite 300, Palo Alto. The Duke Environmental Leadership Master of Environmental Management (DEL-MEM) is an innovative, online 2-year degree designed for mid-career environmental and business professionals. Our unique online program, with strategically integrated short on-campus visits, is designed for you! Meet DEL faculty, students, and alums and learn how you can earn a master’s while maintaining a commitment to your career and family. Free. Register at <http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/del/>

**12/3 APA California Northern’s 2010 Holiday Party.** 6:30–10 PM, Farmer’s Market Bistro, 1015 Clay Street, Oakland. **Save the date!**

**12/4 The Built Environment: Sustainable, Climate Friendly Design.** Third of six sessions in a Sustainable Development and Climate Change Certificate Program. 8:30 AM–4:30 PM, Environmental Technology Center, Sonoma State University. \$195 per one-day session. Faculty include Alex Hinds, Valentin Alexeeff, FAICP, and Tom Jacobson, AICP. Registration may be completed in-person, by mail, by phone at (707) 664-2394, by fax at (707) 664-2613, or online at [www.sonoma.edu/exed](http://www.sonoma.edu/exed). Students are asked to enroll by the Wednesday before the start of the course. Late registration is accepted only on a case-by-case basis. Further information at <http://bit.ly/9D8HhU>  
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**JANUARY**

**1/22 APA California, Northern Section Board Retreat.** 10 AM–3 PM, place to be determined. The Board will set its goals and budget for the year. All APA members welcome. RSVP to Hanson Hom at (408) 730-7450 or [hhom@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us](mailto:hhom@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us)