



## JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE — REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM

### Minutes of the Meeting of January 18, 2013 Held at 10:00 AM at the Metro Center Auditorium, Oakland

ABAG

Dave Cortese  
 Scott Haggerty  
 Mark Luce  
 Julie Pierce

BAAQMD

Tom Bates, Chair  
 Eric Mar  
 Mary Nejedly Piepho  
 Mark Ross

BCDC

Geoffrey Gibbs  
 John Gioia  
 Brad Wagenknecht

MTC

Bill Dodd  
 Jake Mackenzie  
 Jim Spering  
 Amy Worth

Lee Taubenek, CBTH/Caltrans (for Bijan Sartipi)

#### 1. Call to Order

Chair Gioia called the meeting to order.

#### 2. Approval of Joint Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2012

On a motion by Mr. Luce, the minutes of the November 16, 2012 Joint Policy Committee meeting were approved.

#### 3. Report from the JPC Executive Committee

Chair Gioia introduced two items from the Executive Committee meeting of January 10, 2013 and called on JPC agency staff to outline them.

Jean Roggenkamp, BAAQMD, updated the JPC on the proposed air quality and infill development guidelines for cities and counties. Ms. Roggenkamp noted that health effects are significant from living or working near roadways and other pollution sources. She also noted that infill development is an important strategy for the Bay Area. Ms. Roggenkamp reported that staff from the regional agencies are developing new guidelines that will promote “healthy infill development.” The concept, which is being circulated to planners in draft form, is to establish a clear set of distances from major pollution sources and a package of best practices that should be used for projects inside those distances. The point of the guidelines is to get the healthy infill approach into local planning processes at an early stage.

Will Travis, JPC Policy Advisor, reported on the latest steps on an economic development strategy. Mr. Travis reported on a December 3 meeting between nine members of the Bay Area Business Coalition and nine staff from the JPC agencies. The meeting was designed to (a) get business input as part of the regional climate impacts “needs assessment” being conducted by the JPC, and (b) identify the elements of a regional economic development strategy. The consensus of the BABC members was that there should be a regional economic development strategy and the strategy should be prepared by the Bay Area Council Economic Institute. The BABC also proposed that the BACEI Board of Trustees would serve as a good forum for providing business input to the Joint Policy Committee.

The JPC Executive Committee subsequently proposed on January 10th to invite the BABC and BACEI to make a presentation to the JPC at the March 15th meeting outlining their interest in creating an economic development strategy.

- Ms. Piepho noted the importance of getting business input and made a motion to invite the BABC and BACEI to present on March 15.
- Mr. Bates stated that it was a good idea but that we also need input from the other two E's—equity and environment—to get the full picture.
- Chair Gioia stated that we would invite other groups to be at the presentation on March 15 and to respond.
- Ms. Piepho agreed that the motion would include invitations to equity and environmental groups.
- Mr. Cortese asked if there would good geographic representation from the business groups.
- Mr. Travis noted that one person would likely make the presentation but that the BABC at the January meeting with the JPC included South Bay, North Bay, East Bay, Peninsula and San Francisco representatives.
- Ms. Pierce noted that the BACEI meetings are attended by high level executives and that the BACEI has good geographic representation.
- Mr. Spering seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

#### **4. Briefing on JPC Climate Change Projects**

Bruce Riordan JPC Climate Consultant led a staff presentation by Joe LaClair (BCDC), Danielle Hutchings Mieler (ABAG), and Brenda Dix (MTC) on recent work to coordinate and integrate JPC agency projects on climate adaptation, sea level rise, disaster preparedness, and regional resilience. The slide presentation is available at:

<http://www.abag.ca.gov/jointpolicy/meetings.html>. The presentation also included a report from Michael McCormick, Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

Mr. Riordan provided context for the presentation with four recent articles on climate adaptation-related topics. "Adaptation" in the New Yorker profiled how community resilience was key to reducing death and illness rates in Chicago's 1995 heat wave. The just released "National Climate Assessment" by the National Global Change Research Program provides a comprehensive look at climate impacts and adaptation strategies in the United States. John Englander's new book "High Tide on Main Street" outlines the serious issues of sea level rise in this country and advocates for a more aggressive planning program to prepare for these impacts. The New York Times article "In Ireland, Carbon Taxes Pay Off" describes how Ireland's aggressive carbon tax has raised significant revenue and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Riordan explained how interest in climate adaptation is growing rapidly in Sacramento (including possible legislation this year) and in the Bay Area. The regional agencies are responding to this challenge by working more to coordinate and integrate four major projects—the Bay Area Climate & Energy Resilience Project, the Regional Sea Level Rise Strategy, the Regional Resilience Initiative, and Flood Control 2.0. Staff is working also to

coordinate these four projects with the work on regional economic development and Plan Bay Area.

Mr. LaClair, BCDC, showed examples of how staff from BCDC, ABAG, MTC and JPC are combining forces around four topics—equity, governance, nature-based solutions, and engaging the business community. Staff are identifying opportunities for collaboration for each of these topics. For example, BCDC, ABAG, and JPC are each producing papers on equity for climate adaptation/resilience to meet their project goals. ABAG is working with USGS on assessing housing vulnerabilities in neighborhoods with high social vulnerability and then providing that information to help cities plan for earthquakes. BCDC's Adapting to Rising Tides looked at equity issues for both existing assets in the project area and in the various sections of the vulnerability and risk analysis. BCDC conducted surveys of equity organizations and used the metrics developed for Plan Bay Area. The Climate & Energy Resilience Project has employed Bay Localize to get input from a large number of community-based organizations on their most important climate adaptation issues and how they would choose to be involved in regional adaptation planning. Now, staff will be meeting to learn from each other's work and to integrate their findings to improve overall thinking about how to tackle equity issues.

For governance, BCDC looked at the broad need for civil society to be involved in adaptation planning, not just government. They are producing a white paper on key issues for sea level rise decision-making. ABAG has produced a policy guidance paper on governance for earthquakes and other disasters. The Climate and Energy Resilience Project has hired Steve Weissman at Berkeley Law to review adaptation governance in other U.S. metro regions for lessons learned and to provide recommendations on how to further develop governance concepts for the Bay Area. Again, staff will now synthesize the findings from these three efforts to inform each of their projects.

The agencies are also coordinating on nature-based solutions—how to improve “ecosystems services” that provide benefits to human health, infrastructure, etc. BCDC is working with USGS, ESA PWA and other partners in Corte Madera on how to improve wetlands to protect bayside areas from wave damage. That work will inform the Baylands Habitat Goals Update currently underway by the State Coastal Conservancy. The San Francisco Estuary Project is leading Flood Control 2.0 in partnership with the Bay Area Flood Control Agency Association, BCDC and others. The project is focused on three creeks—lower Walnut Creek, San Franciscquito Creek, and lower Novato Creek—to re-design creek channels so sediment moves to the bay instead of building up in the creek itself. This will cut down on creek dredging costs and build sediment where it is needed for wetlands restoration. The agencies are coordinating on these projects.

Finally, Mr. LaClair explained how the various projects are trying to engage the business community. BCDC engaged businesses in the ART project area on vulnerabilities for their operations and for potential adaptation strategies. The Climate and Energy Project solicited business input on their priorities for climate adaptation plans and their ideas on the planning process. ABAG and MTC have engaged the business community through the HUD grant for the Bay Area Prosperity Plan.

Mr. Goldzband explained that this presentation was part of a broader initiative to integrate the various agency projects. The purpose of the work is to see where the agencies are in-sync

and where we need better coordination and alignment. The next step will be to present a real work plan for specific inter-agency tasks around the four common themes of governance, equity, economy and nature.

- Mr. Mackenzie then asked if staff had looked at the Sonoma County climate authority as a model for governance. Staff has looked at the RCPA and is interviewing the executive director as part of the climate adaptation needs assessment.

Staff then provided project updates on Adapting to Rising Tides, the Transportation Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Pilot Project, the Regional Disaster Resilience Initiative, and the Bay Area Climate and Energy Resilience Project.

Mr. LaClair stated that the ART project vulnerability and risk assessment has been completed and the adaptation strategies are now being developed. Stakeholders at a recent project meeting said that adaptation strategies, to be useful, must be first developed at the individual asset level, not at the sector or sub-regional level.

Ms. Dix explained the FHWA-funded project on transportation vulnerability was completed in 2011 by MTC with BCDC, Caltrans and other partners. They are now applying for a second grant that would develop adaptation solutions. The second project will focus on 3 areas—near the Bay Bridge landing, the State Route 92 corridor, and the Oakland Coliseum area. Ms. Dix also explained that ABAG and MTC staff, in preparing the EIR for Plan Bay Area, are using a mid-century projection of 12 inches of sea level rise to assess vulnerability of housing and other important assets.

Ms. Mieler outlined ABAG's Regional Disaster Resilience Initiative that over 18 months examined how the region can recover from an earthquake or other disaster after the emergency response phase is over. How does our economy rebound and move forward? How do we rebuild and get going again? ABAG worked with a wide range of stakeholders on their capacities and needs for disaster recovery. The project completed four white papers (to be released soon) on housing, economy, infrastructure and governance. A major focus was on the need for inter-jurisdictional collaboration. Eventually, the recommended strategies from the project will be used to help implement Plan Bay Area, the regional sea level rise strategy, and other similar initiatives. Ms. Mieler noted there is a large overlap on governance issues between disaster recovery and climate adaptation.

Mr. Riordan provided an update on the stakeholder interviews and 4 topic-specific papers that are being prepared for the Climate & Energy Resilience Project. The interviews are asking stakeholders about projects they are engaged in on climate adaptation, what they need to move their organization forward with climate adaptation planning, and what they believe we need to do collaboratively in the region. Mr. Riordan explained that the project would provide a full briefing at the March JPC meeting. He outlined some initial findings on needs expressed by stakeholders including convening stakeholders, mounting a campaign to explain climate adaptation, aligning government efforts, reforming regulations, creating new financial approaches, providing resources to public health planners, and building community resilience.

- Mr. Haggerty suggested the project convene public works directors to get their input and to help them trade information. Mr. Haggerty also asked why Fremont was not included in the ART project. Mr. LaClair explained that ART resources limited the geographic

scope of the project to the Bay Bridge to San Mateo Bridge zone and that Fremont's response to the initial ART invitation was "tepid." Mr. Haggerty suggested that BCDC try again with the new Fremont leadership.

- Mr. Spring asked that Mr. Riordan provide specific examples of stakeholders and their activities at the next meeting.
- Chair Gioia asked if there is a timeline for the development of a regional adaptation strategy. Mr. Riordan replied that there is a set timeline for the regional sea level rise strategy but there is not timeline for addressing other Bay Area impacts. Mr. LaClair explained the three tasks and timeline of the regional sea level rise strategy and stated that they would have more information on Task 2 (the major expansion of ART) at the March meeting.
- Mr. Luce asked: What are the outcomes for this work? What are the key questions we are trying to answer? What are the products after all this information is gathered? Mr. Riordan replied that we are not building a comprehensive regional plan at this time. Rather, we are identifying the many stakeholders and on-the-ground projects underway and attempting to build a foundation for a coordinated regional program. Mr. LaClair explained that the ART project would be extended to other regions of the bay.
- Mr. Bates complimented the staff work, but stated we need to be more focused on the end game, how we will finance adaptation, how we will implement. We must move to implementation because the problems are here today. We have a large public investment in infrastructure that is going to be a huge problem. We can't just wait and ask for billions in aid after a disaster, we must get ahead of the problem.
- Mr. Gioia stated that financing adaptation relates directly to the regional economic development strategy discussed earlier.
- Mr. Riordan stated that the Bay Area adaptation world would look very different in a year. We are laying the foundation now for a structure to be developed with our partners.
- Mr. LaClair stated that there are no good models elsewhere in the U.S. for the Bay Area on how to structure adaptation planning with many stakeholders—we are leading the way. Building partnerships is the focus now.
- Mr. Bates stated that all this information is good but we have to get going.
- Mr. Spring asked if there is any discussion about someone getting authority to deal with a certain amount of sea level rise, like BCDC has jurisdiction over development within a certain distance of the bay. Mr. Spring said it is very short sighted to think that hundreds of agencies are going to come together in the way that we need them to around sea level rise. He stated that some agency is going to have to get jurisdiction to "clear" projects and move us forward.

Michael McCormick, Governor's Office of Planning and Research presented information on the state's efforts on climate adaptation. Mr. McCormick thanked Mr. Riordan for his leadership in forming the Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation (ARCCA) with the Bay Area's counterparts in San Diego, Los Angeles and Sacramento and OPR. Mr. McCormick said that ARCCA would eventually save the state money because they can work with large regional collaboratives rather than hundreds of cities and counties.

Mr. McCormick explained that general plan updates are being updated to include climate change. Last updated in 2003. He described the climate action plan technical advisory that is being developed to include adaptation in local climate action plans. There will be a draft of

this advisory in a few months with workshops later this year. Mr. McCormick also explained the update this year for the 2009 Climate Adaptation Strategy and the Adaptation Planning Guide produced for local governments by OPR in 2012. There is also a sea level rise guidance in development. All these documents are available on the web at [www.climatechange.ca.gov](http://www.climatechange.ca.gov).

Mr. McCormick explained how the cap and trade system will produce \$200 million in FY 12-13 and \$400 million in FY 13-14 with that revenue designated for GHG reduction in transportation, power generation, agriculture and other sectors. He also stated that the AB 32 scoping plan will be updated this year, as well as the state's hazard mitigation plan. Adaptation will be a big part of all of these updated plans.

Mr. Riordan thanked Mr. McCormick and OPR for "getting it" that climate adaptation must be done at the regional and local levels and become a true partnership of aligned state-regional-local resources.

- Ms. Worth noted the recent extreme rain events that caused damage to two Contra Costa cities totaling 10% of their annual operating budgets. Cities are very concerned about damages now. Planning "clusters" of infrastructure owners are very helpful, but the real question is how we going to fund this type of planning. Mr. McCormick stated this is a major concern around the state. OPR is looking at funding sources such as FEMA and Cal-EMA by tying climate events to disaster funding. Also looking at other funding mechanisms.
- Mr. Ross asked how local projects are ever going to efficiently meet all the different requirements of various regulations so they can be implemented before disasters strike. He proposed creating a "project sustainability agreement" that would reward good projects that will improve the future environment by cutting through some of the many regulations. Don't just deal with "do no harm" but incentivize projects to protect our communities from climate events and other disasters. Mr. McCormick replied that there are a number of discussions going on in Sacramento on CEQA and non-CEQA approaches to this question.
- Mr. Luce stated that we should not tie climate protection to CEQA or we will never get anything done. Do the obvious things first—focus on major strategies. Don't make this part of the general plan process.
- Mr. Rapport asked if was realistic for hundreds of stakeholders to come together on climate adaptation or if the state would look to regional agencies to take the lead on climate adaptation planning, at least on the assessment phase. Mr. McCormick replied that the state is considering this approach with ARCCA and that it needs more discussion.

## **5. Consideration of Approaches for Joint Policy Committee Staff/Consultant Support**

Chair Gioia explained the process to-date for developing a job description for the JPC Policy Advisor.

Mr. Goldzband handed out the draft job description and outlined its contents. Mr. Goldzband explained the draft requirements and the reporting mechanism.

- Mr. Haggerty asked that educational requirements be added to the job description. He also requested that #6 ("assisting with other initiatives as directed by...") include the full board, not just the Chair and the Executive Committee. Chair Gioia replied that the

language would be changed. He stated that the Chair and Executive Committee would make a recommendation on hiring and that the recommendation would come to the full JPC.

- Ms. Pierce questioned the clerical duties and said that the clerical part of the job will weigh down the high-level policy person the position requires. Chair Gioia replied that he would work with the agencies to consider and improve the clerical support for the JPC. Mr. Rapport noted that Fred Castro, ABAG's staff person who supports the JPC, is overloaded and there should be discussions on this as part of the hiring process.

A motion to approve the job description, as amended, was made by Ms. Piepho and seconded by Mr. Haggerty. The motion was passed unanimously.

## **6. Board Comment**

Chair Gioia thanked Will Travis for his year of service as the JPC Policy Advisor and wished him good luck in his future work.

Mr. Travis stated that the JPC may see him even more in the future as he dedicates his life to addressing sea level rise in the Bay Area and to ensuring a prosperous region.

Chair Gioia also thanked Mr. Riordan for his continuing work for the JPC.

## **7. Public Comment**

Jane Kramer addressed the JPC. She noted that ecological medical issues are important to human health. For example, understanding the materials that are used in constructing houses and office buildings.

## **8. Adjournment**

Chair Gioia adjourned the meeting.