



Superior Focus

June 2009

Association of Environmental Professionals - Superior California Chapter
www.superioraep.org

AEP Participates in 2009 Speaker Series

by Trevor Macenski

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The Superior Chapter of AEP is proud to partner with the American Institute of Architects (AIA), California Sierra Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS), Urban Land Institute (ULI), and US Green Building Council - Sacramento (USGBC), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the American Planning Association (APA) in the 2009 Speaker Series. Over the course of six interactive events, land use, design and planning professionals, together with social equity and environmental advocates, will discuss how our individual practices will have to change in order to create a sustainable region and meet the challenge of reducing greenhouse gases and adapting to climate change. Based on the success of last year's Speaker Series, AEP decided to become involved to represent the perspectives of the environmental and regulatory consulting industry as it relates to creating a sustainable region. Building on the concepts presented last year on the Sustainable Region, this year's focus is on implementing ideas and concepts that will make the Sacramento region Lean, Green & Dry.

As a sponsor of the series, AEP will be presenting on SB 375 and how the implementation will result in a new breed of regional planning documents - Sustainable Community Strategies and Alternative Planning Strategies - that will direct transportation funding and approaches to greenhouse gas reduction for car and light truck travel. Mark your calendar for this workshop on **July 31st** in Sacramento and come learn about proactive approaches cities and counties should consider.

In addition to the July 31st workshop sponsored by AEP, other planned sessions include:

- "AB 32, SB 375, and Regional Blueprints: The Ins and Outs of Making Smart Growth Work" - June 26th (ECOS)
- "Water in Design - A Cross-Section of Relevant Work & Theme" - August 28th (AIA and ASLA)
- "Water Resources Management - How Can We All Do Our Part" - September 25th (USGBC)
- "Has the Game Changed? The Future of Public-Private Partnerships" - October 30th (ULI Sacramento)
- "Greening the Dream - Retrofitting the Suburbs" - November 20th (APA)

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details as the date of each workshop approaches!

In addition, APA is sponsoring a "wrap-up" session on the 2008 Speaker Series. This will be a one-day conference on **June 12** in West Sacramento, titled "The Sustainable Region - Making it Happen." See attached flyer for more information and for registration information, or access registration information at: <http://www.worldwideregistration.com/APAconf/>.

Program Notes

by Matt Franck

Programs Co-Chairs Janet Dallas (EDAW) and Kristie Ehrhardt (Wildlands, Inc.) had a busy Winter and Spring, with successful programs in February, March, and April as well as the CEQA Advanced Workshop Series. Our chapter hosted two of the Advanced CEQA Workshops - April 15th in Redding and April 17th in Roseville. Thanks to Bruce Webb (CDFG) and his helpers for a very successful event in Redding, with about 50 attendees from the north state and a jam-packed agenda. And thanks to Janet for organizing the Roseville event, which featured the same excellent speakers and was attended by approximately 60 practitioners. The two CEQA road shows - the spring Advanced CEQA Workshop series and the fall Basic CEQA Workshop series - are two of our organization's most important activities. The curriculum is developed by a statewide team, but the individual workshops are pulled off by the efforts of the local Chapters.

Our most recent lunch presentation was by Mike Finan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The April 22nd presentation was held at Club Pheasant in West Sacramento, and was attended by approximately 55 people. Mike discussed the historical context of the *Rapanos* decision, how the Corps is interpreting the questions of "significant nexus" and "traditionally navigable waterway," and the important procedural information in Regulatory Guidance Letter No. 08-02. Mike's slides are posted on the Superior California Chapter website and can be downloaded at <http://www.superioraep.org/aep42209jurisdiction.pdf>.

Up next is a lunch presentation on June 24th, with guest speaker Bruce Webb from the California Department of Fish and Game, Northern Region. Bruce is working on a large wind turbine power project in Shasta County, and will be discussing innovations in compensatory mitigation and monitoring for bird impacts. Location and RSVP information will be forwarded via a separate e-mail announcement.

Monthly Stress Mitigation

The first Thursday of each month, please enjoy the company of AEP Superior California Chapter members at happy hour. Our next informal, no-host happy hour is set for Thursday, June 4, 2009 at Brew It Up! in downtown Sacramento from 5:00 to 7:00.

Coordinating Local Events in Northern California

by Wirt Lanning

There is continued interest to have more local AEP events (e.g., lunch speakers, workshops) in the far northern portion of the state (centered in Redding). While this area is currently served by the Superior Chapter, it is difficult for members to regularly attend since most events are held in the Sacramento area. In response, the Superior Chapter is looking for individuals interested in providing a leadership role in coordinating local events in Redding. Please contact Bruce Webb (bwebb@dfg.ca.gov) or Wirt Lanning (lanning@nsrnet.com) if you are in "NorCal" and interested in planning and organizing local AEP events (e.g., identifying potential topics, contacting potential speakers, selecting venues, etc.).

Report from Your Legislative Committee Liaison

by Bruce Webb

AEP's Legislative Review Committee, made up of representatives from each of AEP's Chapters across the State, recently met to discuss proposed greenhouse gas (GHG) CEQA Guidelines Amendments and bills under consideration by the Legislature. The Leg Committee meets by conference call monthly during active legislative sessions to keep abreast of bills that may change the laws that relate to AEP's key areas of concern, including CEQA and CESA legislation, and other proposals which affect environmental quality and regulation. The following report is meant to augment reports which are regularly filed by AEP's lobbyist Allan Lind. Those reports are periodically sent via this newsletter, via email blast to members, or posted on AEP's website at: <http://www.califaep.org/content.asp?pid=69>. Please be sure to check the AEP website for Allan's latest report, which gives excellent perspectives on the Sacramento scene as it relates to developing climate change, greenhouse gas, and other issues of interest to AEP members.

During recent meetings, the Leg Committee learned that the proposed GHG Guidelines Amendments prepared by OPR in response to SB97, which went through a public comment period earlier this year, were transmitted to the Secretary for Natural Resources for consideration and adoption through the formal rule making process. AEP and many others commented on the draft Amendments in February. AEP's principle comments received favorable treatment in the final Proposed Amendments. As of this report, Resources' staff is continuing to process the rule making documents. Although Resources must consider all comments, no substantive changes are expected.

The Leg Committee continues to monitor a number of bills currently making their way through the legislative process. Although the legislature continues to be absorbed in budget issues, several CEQA-related bills have been reviewed by AEP. Three of special note are highlighted here. AB 1520, relating to a proposed statewide watershed monitoring and restoration program, is being watched. The Leg Committee has not decided whether to take a position on this bill. SB 408 proposes that a project certified as Platinum or higher by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) be exempt from CEQA. The Leg Committee is opposing this bill; however, no formal opposition letter is needed because AEP has been notified the bill will not move forward this year. If further action is seen on the bill, AEP may consider a formal opposition letter. SB 476 proposes that legal proceedings alleging noncompliance with CEQA must be made prior to filing, rather than issuance, of the Notice of Determination. This bill has been amended to make it of mute concern at this time. The committee will continue to monitor these and other bills as the legislative session continues.

Next Year's Conferences!

It's not too early to start thinking about next year's big conferences - AEP in March 2010 and NAEP in April 2010. In fact, this is the perfect time to help get in on the action and be a conference participant in addition to attending. Please consider how you or your company might participate - perhaps by contributing speakers and materials for a workshop session or submitting an abstract.

- The AEP Conference will be held March 14-17 in Palm Springs (Inland Empire Chapter is hosting). Abstracts for panels and workshop proposals are now being solicited, with a **September 1st** deadline. Information is available at: <http://www.aep2010.com/>. Sponsorship opportunities are available.
- The NAEP Conference will be held April 27-30 in Atlanta. NAEP has released a Call for Papers, available at: http://www.naep.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=2010_Conference. The deadline is September 15th.

Welcome to our New Members!

by Lisa Raffetto

The following are new members to our Superior California Chapter:

- Elizabeth Bigley
- Arthur Deicke
- Suzanne Enslow
- Robert Eskin
- Teresa Fung
- Megan Giglini
- Jane Herschberger
- Donna Lindquist
- Andrea Matarazzo
- Laura Pennebaker
- Heather Reith
- Gail Williams

The following are new student members:

- Jose Brandon Bidrio
- Thanhtam Bui
- Sangeeta Hegde
- Jill Jaffe
- Sandra Jeffries
- Elizabeth MacHagan
- Laura Pennebaker
- Stephany Varga

Not yet a member? Join the AEP Superior California Chapter of AEP and feel the benefits of the fellowship. Please email Lisa Raffetto (lraffetto@kleinfelder.com), Vice President of Membership or check membership information on our website to read about the benefits of membership and sign up using the form provided: <http://www.califaep.org/content.asp?pid=8>.

Hot Jobs!

May job postings including the following.

- Five Senior and Principal-level positions at URS Corporation in Sacramento and San Francisco.
- Environmental Planning Project Manager for SWCA in Sacramento.
- Four positions (entry to senior) at ENERCON in Sacramento.

Jobs and job posting information can be viewed at the Superior California Chapter website at: <http://www.superioraep.org/jobs.htm>.

Save the Dates!

In addition to participating in the 2009 Speaker Series, the Superior California Chapter is coordinating other upcoming events.

- June 24th - lunch presentation (see Program Notes article above)
- July 23rd - summer mixer with the Professional Environmental Marketing Association (PEMA) and The Wildlife Society (in Davis - details TBD)
- September 30th - NEPA Workshop, with possible second date in Redding.

All in addition, of course, to Monthly Stress Mitigation every first Thursday of the month.

New Name!

Our new name - "Superior Focus" - comes to us courtesy of Patsy Gonzalez at Condor Earth Technologies, Inc. Thanks to Patsy for the excellent suggestion - she receives complimentary attendance at one of our upcoming lunch presentations. Patsy also suggested the first-runner-up name (NorCal Environews) - clearly she has a talent for names! Also thanks to the 39 members who participated in our runoff survey.

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