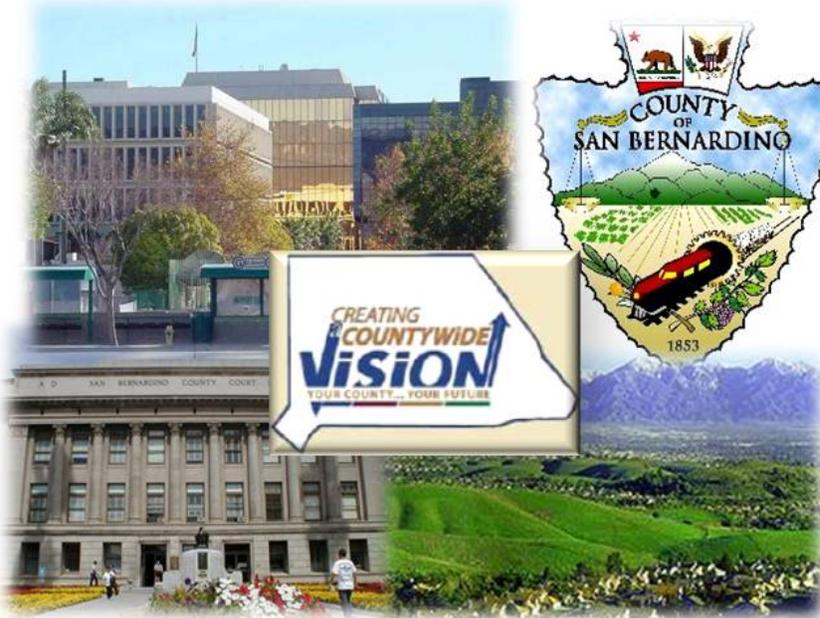


Sustainable Development Report

Issue: # 2

August 2011



County of San Bernardino Vision Project

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Vision and Strategic Plan: A Touchstone in Turbulent Times

At a time when Wall Street is swinging wildly between plunging losses and steep gains and fears of a double-dip recession are surging, it is worth reflecting on the value of having a strong vision and a good strategic plan. In this month's issue we're featuring the [County of San Bernardino's Vision Report](#) as an example of a process and

About Us

ELP Advisors works with cities, agencies, stakeholders, foundations and business groups to craft strategies to grow thriving, healthy, vibrant communities.

In This Issue

[CA Supreme Court Grants Stay: Will Hear CRA/League of Cities Case](#)

[Powering Innovation Economies](#)

[Compendium of Best Practices in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Power](#)

[Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant Awards](#)

[Sustainable Communities Notes](#)

Upcoming Events

August 18

a plan that can provide a touchstone during troubled times. San Bernardino has been one of the counties hardest hit in the nation by the Great Recession and housing foreclosures. San Bernardino County, and the San Bernardino Association of Governments (SANBAG) brought together all 24 cities and towns in the County, consulted with more than 25 groups of experts and utilized a robust public engagement process to create the Countywide Vision Report. The Countywide Vision report reminds us that in times of doubt and fear, meaningful strategic planning that embraces deep community engagement can provide a good foundation for coordinated action, enable more efficient use of scarce resources, and perhaps most importantly, inspire a community to envision and create a better future.

On another note, [ELP Advisors](#) is pleased to welcome Angela Rashid (Associate) and Richard France (Intern) as the newest members of our staff. Both are graduates of UCLA's Urban Planning program and bring a diverse range of skills to our team.

Sincerely yours,

Cecilia V. Estolano | Jennifer LeSar | Katherine Aguilar Perez

Sustainable Economic Development

CA Supreme Court Grants Stay; Will Hear Constitutional Challenge to AB 1X 26-27

On August 11, the California Supreme Court announced it would hear the lawsuit filed by the California Redevelopment Association (CRA) and the League of California Cities (League), which requests that the Court declare unconstitutional AB 1X 26 and AB 1X 27. The Court states in its order that "the briefing schedule is designed to facilitate oral argument as early as possible in 2011, and a decision before January 15, 2012." The Court also issued a partial stay regarding suspension of the effectiveness of AB1X 26-27 until it can rule on the constitutionality of these two bills.

On July 18, CRA and the League of California Cities filed a petition asking the California Supreme Court to overturn AB 1X 26 and AB 1X 27 because they violate the Constitution. The Cities of San Jose and Union City joined as plaintiffs. CRA and the League also had requested that the Court issue a stay to prevent the legislation from going into effect until the Court can decide the lawsuit.

[Can Small be Green? - A Panel Discussion on Sustainable Wealth Building for California's New Majority](#)

August 25

[Green Jobs and Energy Efficiency Webinar hosted by the Local Government Commission](#)

August 30 & 31

[Congressional Black Caucus Job Fair](#)

September 11

[LA River Revitalization Corporation Inaugural Event](#)

September 11 - 14

[California APA Annual Conference](#)

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www.elpadvisors.com
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The central claim for the challenge to AB 1X 26 and AB 1X 27 is that these bills violate Proposition 22, the constitutional amendment passed last November by 61% of the state's voters. This amendment explicitly prohibits the "seizing, diverting, shifting, borrowing, transferring, suspending, or otherwise taking or interfering with" revenue dedicated to local government, including local redevelopment funds.

[Click here](#) for a summary of the CRA/League lawsuit and other materials.

Powering Innovation Economies through Art and Culture

The Urban Land Institute is hosting a Powering Innovation Economies Conference in San Diego on Friday, September 2nd. The conference will showcase how cities are using art and culture as economic drivers for their cities and how this emerging trend is being identified as a key ingredient to future great cities in the 21st century. Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper will share how the City of Denver has earned a position as a leading cultural mecca; John Alschuler will present the wildly successful High Line linear park in Manhattan; and Dave Malmuth and Pete Garcia will share their concept for San Diego's IDEA District where innovation, design, education and art are intentionally integrated to create a place where creativity can thrive.

[Click here](#) to register.

Compendium of Best Practices in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Power

Sustainability Directors, policy makers and advocates should add to their resources library the *Compendium of Best Practices* on state and local successes in energy efficiency and renewable energy compiled by the Renewable Energy & Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), the Alliance to Save Energy and the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE). The report describes more than 20 practices and includes examples of their effective implementation in states and cities. The *Compendium* focus on policies, financing mechanisms and other initiatives that can be easily replicated and that create favorable market conditions for energy efficiency and renewable energy. This is a useful tool and reference document that includes the key program elements of each best practice, the benefits of the practice and examples of its successful implementation.

To read the full report [click here](#).

Transportation

Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant Awards

Last week, Caltrans announced the grant recipients of this year's Transportation Planning Grant program. Caltrans received 211 applications totaling \$34 million in funding requests. Ultimately, 75 applications were selected totaling \$10.3 million for funding.

As the number of applicants for the program demonstrates, the Caltrans grant program is very competitive. For over 10 years, this Caltrans program has successfully provided critical funding resources to support local planning efforts.

To view the award list, [click here](#).

Sustainable Communities Notes

San Bernardino County Vision Project

The San Bernardino County Vision Project marks the first effort to shape the future of America's largest county as a complete community that includes county government, cities, school districts, businesses, service organizations, and more than 2 million residents.

San Bernardino County government leaders convened public meetings and conferences with stakeholders such as industry, educators, environmental experts and healthcare professionals, and then crunched data to create a Vision Statement that was recently adopted by a council representing the county and all 24 cities within the county. The five-paragraph statement envisions a "complete county" that capitalizes on its diversity to create a vibrant economy and a system of services and amenities that will make San Bernardino County a model community.

The task for county leaders now is to steer the community toward efforts that will make the Vision a reality by convening leaders, showcasing local efforts, and keeping the Vision within the view of residents and business and community leaders.

To learn more about the Vision Project [click here](#).

Ocean Protection Council Draft Strategic Action Plan Available for Public Comment

One of California's greatest treasures is its access to coastal and ocean resources. The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) was formed as a result of legislation enacted in 2004 known as the California Ocean Protection Act (COPA). The OPC's mission is to "ensure that California maintains healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations". The OPC is currently updating its strategic plan, [A Vision for Our Ocean and Coast: Five-Year Strategic Plan](#) and seeks comments on its new approach.

The OPC describes its 2012-2017 Strategic Action Plan as "a more focused action plan that identifies targeted areas where the OPC can be the most effective in this current challenging economic and fiscal climate." The new Strategic Action Plan will focus on four key areas that will encompass the core of OPC's efforts over next five years: climate change; sustainable fisheries and marine ecosystems; coastal and ocean impacts from land; and industrial uses of the ocean. In addition, the plan outlines goals to improve the use of and sharing of scientific information needed to make critical coastal and ocean management decisions.

At the end of August, the OPC will host public workshops in Northern, Central and Southern California to garner public comments about the plan.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the California Ocean Protection Council and for a schedule of public workshops. The public comment period is open through September 12th.

Upcoming Events

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[Click here](#) for more information.

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August 30 & 31 | Congressional Black Caucus Job Fair
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