



AEP QUATERLY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2017

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Best Best & Krieger

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello IEC! Hope you are all doing great. Here is a brief update of what has been happening and what is coming up since you last heard from me:

A lunch and learn program took place on Wednesday, August 30 in the Coachella Valley at CVWD. The program focused on the Salton Sea Management Plan Update. Some of you may recall a similar program last year – this was the follow up to that program, as promised.

A program with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians took place in Riverside. This was a very informative program that focused on AB-52 from the Tribal perspective. The highly anticipated SCAQMD Update Program took place on Thursday, September 14 at the SCAQMD office in the City of Diamond Bar. This is was a joint program that was made available with support from the LA and OC Chapters.

Our CEQA Essentials workshop took place on November 1, 2017 at the beautiful Crestmore Manor. The stellar panel was composed of Jonathan Shardlow (Greasham Savage) and John Bellas (Micheal Baker International). The workshop was a success. We hope you can join us next year.

Now that we are past the San Francisco Conference, we are actively planning our 2018 Conference. The Conference will take place in the Coachella Valley. Lynn Calvert-Hayes and Nancy Ferguson are the Conference Co-Chairs. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, or if you have suggestions on how to make the conference better, I would love to hear from you!

We are always looking for ideas for program topics that members can benefit from, so if you have an environmental educational need, please remember that we are here to serve you in any way that we can.

2018 Inland Empire Chapter - Final EAP Board Election Results:

IE AEP CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Darren Edgington (Michael Baker International)

CO-VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS (WESTERN INLAND EMPIRE)

Cheryl DeGano (Albert A. Webb Associates)

CO-VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS (COACHELLA VALLEY)

Nicole Vann (MSA Consulting)

VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

Peter Minegar (Michael Baker International)

MEMBER AT LARGE

(Vacant Position) - Please contact Darren Edgington for more details at dedgington@mbakerintl.com

Please help me congratulate the new and recurring board members in their appointed roles.

Thank you all for your continued support. As always, if you need anything from AEP, do not hesitate to shoot me an email at kcunning@rivco.org.



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SAVE THE DATE

AEP's End of Year Christmas Party 2017

Date/Location/Time:

Thursday, December 21, 2017
 Ho-O-Kan Room between 5:30 - 8:30 pm
 The Mission Inn Hotel & Spa
 3649 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501

Gift Exchange/White Elephant:

Last year's white elephant was a success, so this year we want to continue the tradition going. If you wish to participate in this fun activity, bring a present (\$20 value) and join the fun!



2018 AEP California State Conference

Date/Location/Time:

March 25-28, 2018
 The Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa,
 Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Questions or comments on events? Contact Vice President's of Programs

Brad Perrine or Christina McAdams and Co-Vice President of Programs Elizabeth Meyerhoff at:

brad@ecotierra.com;
cmcadams@rinconconsultants.com; or
emeyerhoff@cwwd.org

2017-2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



CONGRATULATIONS JONAH LAY!!

Since its establishment, the Inland Empire's AEP Fund has benefitted outstanding students within the environmental field. This year's winner is Jonah Lay, receiving a \$1,000 scholarship and a one-year membership to IE-AEP.

Jonah is a student at California Baptist University in Riverside and is pursuing an education in the environmental science field.

Get to know Jonah a bit more!

Jonah is a teaching assistant responsible for giving lectures on various topics in geoscience. In addition to overseeing labs, Jonah tutors, grades lab work, administers practicums, creates assignments, and compiles attendance and grade reports for the professor. He also supervises new TAs and organizes teaching material and lab sections.

That's not all, Jonah is also involved in the Ward 5 Beautification Project at California Baptist University.

Some of the tasks Jonah partakes is in the recruitment of college students, attending training sessions, as well as leading high-school students on community service projects with the intent of eradicating graffiti and removing litter.

Many thanks to the Scholarship Committee and all of you, sponsors, who contributed at various functions to the scholarship fund.



MEET A CHAPTER MEMBER: ELIZABETH MEYERHOFF



Elizabeth Meyerhoff is an environmental specialist at the Coachella Valley Water District. Elizabeth has 13+ years of experience in environmental planning with expertise in CEQA/NEPA compliance. Her day-to-day role at the water district is as the environmental planner for Capital Improvements Projects. Elizabeth works with federal, state and local resource agencies for project coordination regarding Clean Water Act permits. She interacts closely with local Native American tribes for AB52 consultation and tribal monitoring during project construction.

Elizabeth has a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of California, Riverside. After graduation she lived in Washington DC interning for an educational/advocacy grassroots group

on Capitol Hill. Missing the west coast, Elizabeth moved to San Diego and landed her ideal-job-fresh-out-college-mindset working in the not-for-profit medicine field managing health care clinics. During that time, Ms. Meyerhoff accepted a part-time position at (Greystone) consulting firm as a research/planning assistant, followed by a decade long position as an environmental planner at HMC Consulting Inc.

Elizabeth has a Professional Certificate in Land Use & Environmental Planning from UCR Extension. Some of the courses she enjoyed most included Endangered Species Act, CA Water Law, and Economic Development.

Elizabeth enjoys spending time outdoors with her family. This past year they "rented" a 4x8 plot from the city of Palm Desert's community garden, and were successful with growing cauliflower, brussel sprouts, celery and bell peppers!

Elizabeth is a Co-Vice President of Programming; focusing on programming in the Coachella Valley. She is also on the AEP 2018 state conference planning committee. You can reach Elizabeth at: EMeyerhoff@cvwd.org

More About Me!

If you could only keep 5 possessions, what would they be?

Espresso & french press, my iphone, passport, mascara, and all my printed photographs.

What is a skill you would like to learn and why?

I would love to learn to draw & paint a little better than my current skill level. I am currently writing a children's book, and may even attempt to illustrate the story as well.

If you could do any profession but your own, what would it be and why?

Probably something that did not require daily computer use!

If you could travel back in time, what time period would you travel to and why?

I'd rather move into the future 50-years to understand how well we are preparing for the next generations.

PLANNER ON THE MOVE: STEPHANIE TANG



Who do you work for now and what attracted you to the new position?

Stephanie Tang is a Senior Planner with the City of Riverside Community & Economic Development Department - Planning Division. Stephanie has nine years of CEQA/NEPA experience and feels that her understanding and knowledge in CEQA will aid in the City's review process. As a Senior Planner, Stephanie will lead complex entitlement projects and will supervise other planners as well. Stephanie enjoys working with applicants, consultants, other agencies, and mentoring other planners. Additionally, Stephanie is passionate for both Urban Planning as well as Environmental Planning.

What type of projects will you be working on?

Stephanie will be working on various projects in the City of Riverside including planned residential developments, commercial/industrial projects, California Baptist University Specific Plan Amendment, to name a few.

What has been your professional trajectory to get where you are today?

Stephanie started her professional career at the City of Riverside as a Planning Tech after she graduated UCSD in 2007, with a degree in Urban Planning. Stephanie went to the private sector from 2010 to 2016 as an environmental planner at Dudek working on CEQA/NEPA projects. Stephanie came back to the City of Riverside at the end of 2016. Stephanie is grateful for all the mentors who have helped her grow professionally and is excited to pass the knowledge obtained over the last decade to other planning staff through guidance and mentorship.

You can reach Stephanie Tang at:
stang@riversideca.gov



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Throughout the legislative session, the Inland Empire Chapter of AEP has sought to provide periodic updates on legislation relevant to the world of the California Environmental Quality Act. Now that the session has drawn to a close, we would like to highlight a few bills that were recently signed into law:

A. Assembly Bill 73 (Chiu D) Planning and Zoning: Housing Sustainability Districts

The Planning and Zoning Law requires a city or county to adopt a general plan for land use development within its boundaries. The general plan must contain seven mandatory elements, including a housing element. Existing law provides for various reforms and incentives intended to facilitate and expedite the construction of affordable housing. This legislation authorizes a city, county, or city and county, including a charter agency to establish by ordinance a housing sustainability district that meets specified requirements, including authorizing residential use within the district through the ministerial issuance of a permit. As it relates specifically to CEQA, this bill directs

a lead agency, when designating housing sustainability districts, to prepare an EIR for the designation, as specified. The bill exempts from CEQA, however, housing projects undertaken in the housing sustainability districts that meet specified requirements, including if the project satisfies certain design review standards applicable to development projects within the district provided the project is "complementary to adjacent buildings and structures and is consistent with the [agency's] general plan."

B. Assembly Bill 1218 (Oberholte R) California Environmental Quality Act: Exemption: Bicycle Transportation Plans

CEQA, until January 1, 2018, exempts from its requirements bicycle transportation plans for an urbanized area for restriping of streets and highways, bicycle parking and storage, signal timing to improve street and highway intersection operations, and related signage for bicycles, pedestrians, and vehicles under certain conditions. CEQA, until January 1, 2018, also exempts from its requirements projects consisting of restriping

of streets and highways for bicycle lanes in an urbanized area that are consistent with a bicycle transportation plan under certain conditions. This bill extends those two exemptions until January 1, 2021.

C. Senate Bill 1 (Beall D) Transportation Funding

This bill establishes the Advance Mitigation Program in the Department of Transportation to enhance communications between the department and stakeholders to, among other things, protect natural resources and accelerate transportation infrastructure projects. The bill directs the Department to set aside not less than \$30,000,000 annually for 4 years for the program from capital outlay revenues.

Want up-to-date bill information?

For a thorough analysis of current legislation, or an up-to-date status of a bill in the California State Legislature, refer to the California Legislative Information Site at the following address:
<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

www.leginfo.ca.gov

PROJECT ON THE SPOTLIGHT

The Conversion of Chicago's Bloomingdale Old Rail into an Elevated Park Trail

The Bloomingdale Line was constructed in 1873 by the Chicago and Pacific Railroad Company. As a result of mergers and acquisitions, it became part of the Soo Line Railroad, a subsidiary of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which had owned the right-of-way. The City of Chicago purchased the right-of-way from Canadian Pacific Railway in January 2013.

The line was used for both passenger and freight trains and served several local industrial businesses, including a Schwinn Bicycle Company warehouse. The Bloomingdale Line was primarily used to reach the Lakewood Branch and industrial district on Goose Island. The last freight train ran on the line in 2001.

The City of Chicago first investigated converting the Bloomingdale Line into a greenway in a 1997 bicycle facilities plan, but it remained a freight

line with occasional service for several more years. The City and community reintroduced the greenway concept as part of the Logan Square Open Space Plan in 2002-2004. This plan proposed a linear park or greenway with public access ramps every few blocks apart. At the east end, a trailhead would be created at the Chicago River.

A grassroots, non-profit organization, Friends of the Bloomingdale Trail (FBT), was formed in 2003 to be the focal point for advocacy and community involvement in the conversion project.

FBT has partnered with the City and The Trust for Public Land, a national land conservation group, in a collaboration that will lead the project management, design, and development of the park. At 2.7 miles, Chicago's Bloomingdale Trail is a nearly 3-mile-long elevated linear park. It is the longest greenway project of a former elevated rail line in the United

Similar greenway projects for former elevated rail lines include:

Promenade Plantée, Paris (2.9 miles)

The Trestle, St. Louis (1.5 miles)

The High Line, New York City (1.4 miles)

The Bloomingdale Trail is the backbone of a parks and trail network called "The 606". The system's numeric name is an homage to the city's ZIP Codes, the prefix for nearly all of which is 606. The intent is to symbolize the system tying together myriad diverse neighborhoods across the city.

The park officially opened on Saturday, June 6, 2015.

