



County Leads Regional Energy Effort

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has formally created a regional energy authority and finalized a Joint Powers Agreement that soon will allow East Bay municipalities to jointly procure energy for customers and have more input in ensuring their energy comes from clean, local, renewable sources.

Already, 11 local cities have voted to join Alameda County in the newly created East Bay Community Energy partnership. In doing so, participants are taking advantage of a 2002 State law that enables local governments to form Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs for their communities.

CCAs enable local governments to pool energy demand within their jurisdictions to procure electricity for customers while maintaining the existing electricity provider, PG & E, for customer billing, transmission and distribution.



"Across the East Bay, the consensus is that a CCA program is the right way to go – both for the environment and for our residents," said Supervisor Scott Haggerty, newly elected Chair of East Bay Community Energy.

A feasibility study recently concluded that a CCA program could potentially bring numerous benefits to Alameda County, including:

1. Competition with existing utilities that would be advantageous for consumers and their electrical rates.
2. More local control to plan and work to procure higher levels of renewable energy, and to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases associated with local energy consumption.

"We also believe our local CCA will have additional flexibility in terms of investing in local power development, energy efficiency programs for residents, and new technologies – such as electric transportation, distributed energy storage and microgrids – to help make our communities more resilient and to generate a significant number of local jobs," said Chris Bazar, Director of the Alameda County Community Development Agency.

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Wilma Chan Elected President of Board of Supervisors Richard Valle Vice President

On January 10, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors elected Supervisor Wilma Chan, District 3, to serve as President of the Board for the next two years. The Board elected Supervisor Richard Valle, District 2, to serve as Vice President.

Under the Board's Operating Procedures, the President of the Board presides over Board meetings, appoints members to Board committees, and signs contracts, leases and other official documents approved by the Board. The Vice President assumes these duties in the absence of the Board President.

"I am very proud to take this on," said Chan, whose District 3 includes Alameda, San Leandro, and Oakland's Chinatown, Jack London, Fruitvale and San Antonio neighborhoods, as well as the unincorporated communities of San Lorenzo, Hayward Acres and a portion

Keith Carson is New President of California State Association of Counties

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson has been elected President of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). Carson is the longtime representative of Alameda County District 5, which includes Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont and large portions of Oakland.

He was sworn in as the new CSAC President at the Association's Annual meeting in early December.

"The services California's counties provide impact all Californians in their daily lives," Carson said.

Carson will serve a year as CSAC President. He has previously served on CSAC's Board of Directors and Executive Committee. He also serves on the Board of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and has served for more than 20 years as President of East Bay Economic Development Alliance, the largest business association in the East Bay.



Cindy Chadwick Appointed Alameda County Librarian



The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has appointed Cindy Chadwick to the position of County Librarian after a national recruitment that sought the best candidates to fill this key leadership post. Chadwick served as our Deputy County Librarian since February 2011. In that capacity she was responsible for leading the operations of the 10-branch County library system, most recently under the leadership of Interim County Librarian Carmen Martinez.

Prior to joining the Alameda County Library, Cindy worked at the Arapahoe Library District in suburban Denver, Colorado, serving as both the Sheridan City Librarian and Manager of Outreach Services. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Simmons College School of Library and Information Science and also earned a Master's Degree from the University of Chicago.

Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator, said, "We congratulate Cindy on her promotion and look forward to her joining the County's strong executive leadership team. We also extend our gratitude to Carmen Martinez for serving as the Interim Director and continuing to assist through the transition."

Twelve to be Inducted Into Women's Hall of Fame

Twelve local women representing the region's rich diversity as well as a remarkable range of achievement will be inducted into the **Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame** at its 24th Anniversary Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on April 1 in Pleasanton. Live jazz, raffle drawings and great food will be featured at this year's event, which will take place at **12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Building C, 4501 Pleasanton Avenue, Pleasanton**. Tickets to the event are available at <http://acgov.org/whof/>.

The program, co-sponsored by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the County's Commission on the Status of Women, will once again raise funds to support important local partners serving women and families in Alameda County. In addition, it will support local girls' academic pursuits through the **Mary V. King "Leading the Way" Youth Scholarship Fund**, named after the former Alameda County Supervisor and Women's Hall of Fame co-founder who died in 2015.

This year's inductees are:

- **Linda Mandolini, Business and Professions.** Linda is President of Hayward-based Eden Housing Inc., a nonprofit housing development corporation that under Linda's leadership has emerged as one of the nation's top developers of affordable housing.
- **Suzan Bateson, Community Service.** Suzan, Executive Director of the Alameda County Community Food Bank, is a nationally recognized leader who helped transform hunger-relief efforts in Alameda County and guided the Food Bank to new levels of effectiveness.
- **Ayodele Nzinga, Culture and Art.** Ayodele has been a leading figure in East Bay theater community for more than four decades. She has led groundbreaking productions of African American theater classics and gives voice to underserved communities through her art.
- **Catherine (Suárez) Dunbar, Education.** Catherine is a Spanish instructor in the Tri Valley who educates and empowers others outside the classroom. She leads programs to help Latina girls and provide residents in need with food and other basic necessities.
- **Emily Kirsch, Environment.** Emily is co-founder and CEO of the world's first incubator and accelerator enabling solar and smart energy startups to grow and thrive. Her Powerhouse program has helped 50 startups at the cutting edge of solar and smart energy innovation.
- **Patricia Aguilera, Health.** Patricia has devoted nearly five decades to supporting Alameda County's safety net health care system. Now retired, the former CFO of La Clinica De La Raza helped community clinics thrive amid the growing dominance of managed care.
- **Kathie Barkow, Justice.** Kathie helped create the Alameda County Homeless and Caring Court, which helps homeless people clear their records of minor offenses and remove barriers to housing, employment and self-sufficiency.
- **Aeeshah Clotney, Non-Traditional Careers.** Aeeshah works to eliminate violence and build peaceful communities. She promotes healing by bringing perpetrators of violence together with victims, resolves conflicts in public housing and helps low-income residents.
- **Audrey Yamamoto, Philanthropy.** Audrey is President and Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Fund, which supports the Bay Area's Asian American community. She has forged new partnerships with business and dramatically expanded the foundation's fundraising.
- **Katherine Yelick, Science, Technology, Engineering.** Katherine, Associate Laboratory Director (ALD) for Computing Sciences at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, is an international leader in computational sciences and the advancement of STEM education.
- **Hel Say, Sports and Athletics.** Hel Say is Head Coach of the U14 Girls team at Soccer Without Borders, supporting newly arrived refugees and immigrant youth through soccer. She helps to harness the power of teamwork in helping youth adapt to a new culture.
- **Lauryn Nguyen, Youth.** Lauryn, 17, has already demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to community service. She volunteers at programs supporting mothers and children and is a positive role model to youth, including her four younger siblings.

To boost the countywide program's profile throughout Alameda County, the Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon and Awards Ceremony moves to Pleasanton this year after a string of record-breaking annual awards luncheons at Oakland's Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Tickets to the luncheon and awards ceremony are \$100. For ticket information and on-line purchase, visit <http://whof.acgov.org>. Sponsorship opportunities that include the sponsoring of tables/seats for youth to attend are available at <http://whof.acgov.org> or please e-mail countyadministrator@acgov.org for additional information.

Disaster Relief Fund Reactivated in Response to Tragic “Ghost Ship” Fire

Alameda County has reactivated its **Disaster Relief Fund** to enable its approximately 9,600 employees and people in the community to voluntarily donate funds to benefit the victims of the tragic December 2nd fire at a converted warehouse space in Oakland’s Fruitvale neighborhood known as the “Ghost Ship.” Thirty six people died in the fire.

Activation of the **Disaster Relief Fund** allows people to contribute cash to help those affected by the three-alarm fire – the families of those killed and those recovering from their injuries. County employees may also have the option to donate up to 5 days of their accrued vacation time, compensatory time and/or holiday in-lieu time.

To donate to the **Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund**, go to <http://acgov.org/government/news/disaster.htm>. Information can also be found on **ACGOV Cares** (<http://acgovcares.org/>), a new website designed to engage County employees and residents about volunteerism and other opportunities to strengthen our communities.

The **Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund** was initially established in response to the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States and has been reactivated numerous times in response to tragedies both domestic and abroad, including: Hurricane Katrina in 2005, earthquakes in Haiti and Chile in 2010, the Northern Japan Earthquake/Tsunami in 2011 and the mass shootings at an Orlando, Florida nightclub last June.

“This tragedy hits us all especially hard because it occurred right here in our community,” Scott Haggerty, the outgoing President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, said in December. “We feel the need to do something that allows our employees and the community to support the many people affected by this heart-breaking event.”



Flags flew at half-staff outside all Alameda County buildings in memory of victims of “Ghost Ship” fire.

Alameda County intends for all contributions to the **Disaster Relief Fund** to go directly to victims and families affected by the fire.

Cash and online donations are accepted. Cash donations may be contributed by sending a personal check payable to the **Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund**, c/o the Auditor-Controller Agency, 1221 Oak Street, Room 238, Oakland CA 94612. To make an online donation or to obtain additional information, go to <http://acgov.org/government/news/disaster.htm>.

County Honored for “Green” Transportation Leadership



Alameda County leaders recently celebrated the County’s eighth consecutive Electric Vehicle Merit Award for having one of the Top 50 Greenest Government Fleets in North America. Phillip Kobernick, County Sustainability Project Manager (fourth from left), and Willie Hopkins Jr., Director, Alameda County General Services Agency (far right), were joined by members of the Board of Supervisors and representatives from the Award Co-Sponsors, 100 Best Fleets and Cyberswitching.

Community Comes Together to Discuss Possible Impacts of Federal Policy Changes Under Trump

Efforts to anticipate and understand the impacts to Alameda County of policy changes expected under new President Donald Trump took center stage at a special meeting in Oakland on January 26 hosted by Wilma Chan, newly elected President of the Board of Supervisors.

A packed house of about 200 people attended the meeting, "Alameda County to Capitol Hill: Having an Impact on Federal Policy Change," which featured comments from two Washington D.C.-based lobbyists for the County as well as guests concerned about impacts to health care, the environment, programs assisting the poor and formerly incarcerated, and other pressing issues.

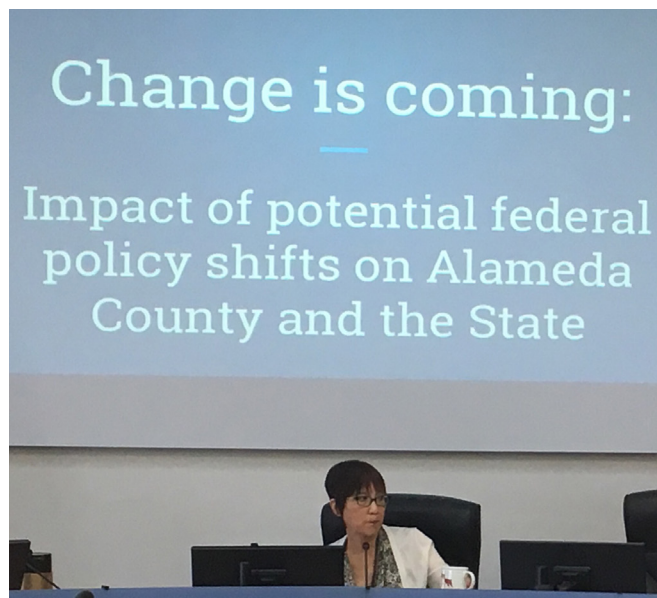
"The more we talk to people about what's going on, the better off we're going to be in terms of being able to counteract some of these issues that we are very worried about," Chan said.

Emily Bacque, who works on behalf of the County with the lobbying firm CJ Lake, said local leaders are wise to keep a close watch on a possible repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), because such a move would significantly impact the State of California and Alameda County. Bacque said action on the ACA is the top priority for Republicans in Washington, but that it will likely be delayed by the need to develop replacement legislation and the process to confirm a new federal Health and Human Services Secretary.

Though federal cuts affecting the County should be expected, moves for deep cuts could be resisted by some conservatives in Congress who are smitten with federal grant programs that aid their districts, said Lynn Jacquez, Principal for CJ Lake.

The meeting took place the day after Trump signed executive orders on immigration, including one order that could possibly bring financial penalties to jurisdictions that provide "sanctuary" for undocumented residents. Many speakers at the meeting said they feared the financial consequences of the immigration move, and the possibility of a concerted push to deport undocumented residents. Others questioned whether there would be cuts in funding to affordable housing, senior services and other social services programs under the new administration.

Chan said the county has raised \$750,000 in matching grant funds to develop a "rapid response" team to fight deportations. On February 7, the Board of Supervisors approved her request to provide another \$750,000 to match the donations.



Supervisor Wilma Chan hosted a special meeting on January 19 to discuss the potential local impacts of planned federal policy changes under President Trump

ARTSFUND - Support Arts and Creativity in Alameda County!

Every year, arts organizations throughout Alameda County receive support from the County's **ARTSFUND** Grants Program. Administered by the Office of the Alameda County Arts Commission, this grants program supports all types of arts programming such as dance, music, theatre, visual arts, literature, poetry, and media arts presented in Alameda County by local nonprofit organizations.

Last year's ARTSFUND program awarded grants to 38 nonprofits in Alameda County. In the coming year, it is anticipated that between 35-45 arts organizations will be awarded grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500. **For the current grant cycle, applications are due on March 1, 2017.**

Most funds distributed through this grants program come from voluntary contributions solicited through the ARTSFUND insert included in County property tax bills and through donations by County employees to the annual Combined Charities program. Help support Alameda County arts organizations by sharing information about this grants program and consider making a donation to **ARTSFUND**. More information is available at https://www.acgov.org/arts/html/artsfund_program.html. The arts and creativity are essential part of Alameda County! Thanks to everyone who generously donates to this grants program!

Partnership Boosts Voter Participation in Ashland-Cherryland

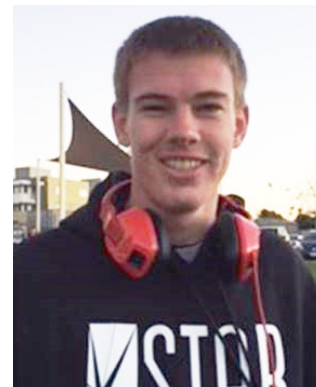
The REACH Ashland Youth Center and the Alameda County Public Health Department recently joined in a multi-pronged effort to raise voter participation rates in the unincorporated areas of Ashland and Cherryland. The **#AshlandMatters** partnership – which also involved Resources for Community Development (RCD), which operates the Ashland Place Apartments next to REACH – produced some impressive results by significantly raising voter participation in the November 8 Presidential Election.

The Ashland and Cherryland communities have been plagued by historically low rates of voter participation. In Ashland, the voter turnout in the 2014 General Election was 22 percent of registered voters – with just about 2 percent of Ashland’s 22,000 residents submitting ballots.

Seizing on this issue, the **#AshlandMatters** initiative was launched in the belief that raising voter participation was a crucial first step in empowering the Ashland and Cherryland communities to address long-term health, economic development and public safety challenges.

The **#AshlandMatters** initiative focused first on two voter engagement efforts: a National Voter Registration Day dinner event in September and a Voter Town Hall in October to engage residents on important local issues on the ballot. Finally, the effort focused on getting newly engaged voters to follow through by casting their ballots on November 8. To do this, they transformed the REACH facility into an Election Day polling place. And when the polls closed, nearly 1,200 voters had submitted ballots - an increase of more than 64 percent over 2014!

One of the newly engaged voters was Tim Curran, 22, a REACH member who has lived with the same foster family since he was 10. Tim decided to register to vote for the first time after attending the Town Hall in October. Just a few weeks later, on Election Day, he returned to REACH and cast his ballot. “It felt good to vote and know that I have a voice,” he said.



Tim Curran, 22

Year of the Fire Rooster



A fun time was had by all at the annual Lunar New Year celebration on January 26 at the Lincoln Square Recreation Center in Oakland. The free event was hosted by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, BART and the Asian Community Collaborative. Photo by Abigail Mariam

Project SEARCH Celebrates Nine New Graduates

OAKLAND - Nine people graduated on January 27 in an upbeat ceremony marking the completion of the seventh year of Alameda County's groundbreaking Project SEARCH program, which provides internships and career opportunities to individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. The graduates said they would begin immediately seeking out permanent employment. Each said they believed their prospects were vastly enhanced by the on-the-job experience they received through Project SEARCH.

One place the graduates will surely look for work is Alameda County, which has a strong track record of hiring internship graduates into full-time jobs. In all, 18 graduates of the County Project SEARCH program have moved on to permanent jobs with Alameda County, while many others have found paid employment elsewhere – including the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and St. Mary's College in Moraga.

Strong supporters of the program include the District Attorney's (DA's) Office and Sheriff's Office, which have both hired several Project SEARCH graduates. Brianna Murray, a Project SEARCH graduate who recently completed her third year with the DA's office, attended the graduation ceremony and told the latest graduates that Project SEARCH has prepared them well for fulfilling employment. "Keep positivity in your life," Brianna said. "That way you can get a great job just like I have."

Project SEARCH has more than 400 distinct programs worldwide championing work opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Alameda County launched the first public sector Project SEARCH program in California in 2009, and it has since become a centerpiece of the County's multifaceted approach to emphasizing diversity and inclusion in its employment practices.

"Every year we get a new group of workers who come in here and set a positive example for the rest of us in terms of professionalism and 'can-do' attitude," said County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, a champion of the program.

In January, Alameda County was honored by International Project SEARCH for its success in helping to place interns into permanent paid employment. The award came after it was shown that 80 percent of the County's interns in 2015 were placed into permanent jobs.

Potential employers, or anyone interested in Alameda County Project SEARCH, should call Lori Kotsonas at (510) 618-1540 or go to eastbayinnovations.org.



The nine newest graduates of Alameda County Project SEARCH gathered outside recently to celebrate their accomplishments during year-long internships with Alameda County in 2016