

CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

TODD K. APO, CHAIR

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL • DISTRICT I

PH: (808) 768-5001

FAX: (808) 768-5011

EMAIL: tapo@honolulu.gov

Travel Report

July 17th – 28th 2009

San Diego, California & Nashville, Tennessee

Submitted by Council Chair Todd K. Apo *TKA*

July 17 – 22, 2009

Arrived on July 17th in San Diego, California. On July 17 and 18, I met with the Monarch Group regarding West Oahu Developments and potential affordable housing projects. Discussed affordable housing policies and impact those policies had on potential housing and mixed use developments. Discussed the potential future development of residential and commercial/mixed-use areas recently zoned in West Oahu region, including Monarch's interest and work in the Kapolei area. Monarch shared some of their experiences in developing residential and affordable housing, specifically rental housing, in the California and western areas. We also discussed various City policies regarding residential and affordable housing, as well as proposed revisions to the affordable housing policies of the City.

During this time, also visited and rode San Diego at grade rail system to observe impacts on the rail systems speed, street intersections and vehicle traffic. I observed the service area to the marina and convention center.

National Association of Counties – 2009 Annual Conference

This year's National Association of Counties, Annual Conference was held July 24-28th, 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee. The emphasis for this conference was economics, federal stimulus monies and energy efficiency. The following report provides highlights of travel activities and key information presented throughout the conference during educational sessions and forums.

Members of the Hawaii delegation met as the Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) to discuss and appoint board members for the National Association of Counties. Additionally, HSAC hosted a networking event. The proceeding day, attended the Executive Board meeting for HSAC and met with and interviewed the NACo Present-Elect candidates to examine their views on issues that would affect Honolulu and regarding their commitment to allow Hawaii to continue its representation on the NACO Board of Directors.

During the Conference, I attended the Tele-communications and Technology Steering Committee meeting, hearing a presentation on automated customer service interaction and the use of avitar software for such interactions. I also attended the NACO Board of director hearings, where the Board accepted various resolution proposals from sub-committees. Finally, I attended the NACO Election of Officers and Business Meeting, and participated in the voting of Hawaii County votes on various matters.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

Chuck Clinton of the National Association of State Energy Officials reported on the Energy Efficiency Program. According to the presentation, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided numerous funding avenues for a variety of programs. For example, \$300 million for the Clean Cities Program. This is a significant increase in appropriations compared to past acts. Programs that qualify for these monies include: alternative fuel vehicles, neighborhood electric vehicles, fuel cell vehicles, ultra low sulfur diesel vehicles, acquisition and installation of fueling infrastructure. A \$300 million appropriation to state Energy Offices is another efficiency opportunity for jurisdictions. This program provides rebates to encourage consumers to purchase Energy Star appliances. This funding and program is a first for the federal government and requires a 50% match (administrative portion).

The presenter also shared information about Smart Grid and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). Smart Grid is aimed at increasing investments and improving the efficiency and technology of energy delivery systems throughout the nation. Title XIII of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) provided over \$4.5 billion for grid technology improvements. \$5.9 billion is also provided for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The current program includes an increase in appropriations per home (\$6,500) for weatherization projects to maximize efficiency and does not have cost share element like many other federal grants.

Terry Simonson of Tulsa County, Oklahoma shared their city's legislative experience with establishing an increasing energy efficiency policy. According to the presenter, Tulsa set out to: 1) develop a plan to address energy issues; 2) provide sustainability for future generations; 3) to stimulate energy efficiency economic development. The Oklahoma Energy Independence Act was the culminating act of this effort. This act allows counties to establish separate Energy District Authorities that serve as the primary mechanism to solicit public or private funding partnerships for projects such as solar farms and individual business or private resident improvements that increase energy efficiency.

Green Infrastructure

Michael Kirschman's presentation focused on the value of open space and nature preserves by highlighting the environmental and economic benefits. Sharing the experience and operations of

Mecklenburg County, the presenter covered the roots and purpose of this specific environmental mission. According to Mr. Kirshcman the nature preserve was established in the 90's "to manage county nature preserve systems and facilities" which consists of a range of items including: 3 nature centers, 35 miles of trails, 56-site campgrounds and 21 preserves spreading over 6,640 acres. This adventure has proven to support local economics, particularly tourism and research. Approximately, 500,000 visitors flock to these preserve areas annually.

Cindy Wood of the Planning Department in Davidson County, Tennessee, provided attendees with background information on Greenways and related infrastructure. According to the presenter, Davidson is one of the few municipalities that operates as a consolidated city-county and has a Mayor and 40-member Council system. Their Greenways consists of 113 properties totaling 10,570 acres - both large and small scales trails, plains, areas and parks. These ventures deliver a variety of environmental benefits. Of particular interest, was the discussion of Low Impact Design Green Infrastructure. LID helps to allow urban or suburban areas to incorporate green infrastructure systems at a smaller scale with less impact to existing property. These techniques include using Pervious Pavement, establishing Rain Gardens, Green Roofs and Infiltration Planters.

Solar Infrastructure

Hannah Muller of the US Department of Energy shared information about "*Building a Sustainable Solar Energy Infrastructure in Your County*". This presentation covered both the elementary details about solar power as well as common myths and possible barriers to implementing these technologies. According to the presenter: three Categories of Solar Technologies exists: 1) Photovoltaic's (PV); 2) Concentrating Solar Power (CSP); and 3) Solar Water Heating. Within these sources, officials and people believe it is too expensive or difficult to establish solar in their regions. This is not true. With federal funding and decreasing cost, it is affordable for most counties.

Barriers commonly arise when exploring solar systems include permitting issues and the need to plan for such infrastructure. Planning ahead and streamlining permitting processes help to address these types of difficulties. The American Recovery Act provided funds via governmental funds and bonds to help boost the solar initiative. These include Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBGs) which are commonly employed to integrate solar or retrofit buildings; and the Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) that allows improvements to be financed by the public sector interest free. Additionally, the Build America Bonds (BABs) entitles infrastructure repairs to qualify for interest rate rebates. The US Department of Energy website contains additional information about solar energy and funding options.

An Ober presented interesting facts about Salt Lake County's solar power initiative. Salt Lake conducted a series of studies to define the solar needs. This effort was driven by increasing fuel and energy costs for residents and government alike. The study was extensive and thorough, focusing on solar alternatives, increasing energy efficiency, facility capacity, engineering and technical needs; review of meter law amendments; and a variety of financing tools. The financing streams considered identified in the study included both a public options like Tax-exempt financing and Private Ownership such as Investment Tax Credits.

James Cadlan of Maricopa County in Arizona provided session attendees with several examples of alternative energy sources and systems at government facilities. The presenter began by explaining the technical specifications and functions of the solar equipment currently used at Arizona's Maricopa Desert Outdoor Center. This center supplements its power needs with a Solar Thermal HVAC System. This systems, which consists of 12 solar panels, uses water as an instrument in both the heating and cooling process depending upon the season (summer or winter). Using HVAC has allowed a 40-70% cut in energy costs, while adequately cooling and heating the center as needed. The county also has in place solar systems at active use parks such as the Buckeye Hills Regional Park. The Regional Park, which includes a rifle range, also utilizes a Solar Electric System. Slightly different than the Center, the park is completely offline. Power is provided via photovoltaic cells set upon a structure built using ICE (Insulate Concrete Efficiently). Arizona solar and energy programs run statewide and include the Tucson-Pima Metropolitan Energy Commission (MEC), a "Solar village" in the Community of Civano and the Greater Tucson Coalition for Solar Energy.

Green Jobs and the Local Economy

Robert T. Mejia, Employment Services Manager of South Bay Workforce Investment Board (California) presented "*Under Construction: Green Jobs and the Local Economy*". Green-collar jobs are highly quality blue-collar jobs that are connected to green businesses and products. Green jobs are in those primary industries of a green economy Growth and skill and specialized training or education. Both of these occupational sectors, as is the Green industry, are expected to increase within the economy.

Stacy Ho's "*Building A Green Economy At The Local Level*" discussed options for local governments to pursue economic development via "green collar" jobs. "Green Collar" jobs can consist of positions that support the person and the planet and those that are simply geographically local in nature. Green jobs can serve as an economic stimulator at the local level as they help to rebuild a strong middle class and may provide a pathway out of poverty. Essential to the success of Green economics is equal hiring laws as well as Strategic Partnerships between key players.

John Mello's presentation "*Green Career Training in Baltimore -- Civil Works*" presented a firsthand look at a City working to incorporate green jobs into their local economy. 3E Energy Solutions is the agency administering Baltimore's program. The objectives of 3E are healthier and energy efficient home improvements; create "green" jobs and reduce reliance on grant funding. The Baltimore Green Job experience focused on increasing workers who were "Green" and providing tools to increase wages and lifestyle standards. To achieve these goals, Baltimore rehabilitated incarcerated individuals by offering certification and training in a variety of green fields such as Lead & Asbestos Abatement Worker; Demolition crew; Environmental Field Technician and Hazardous waste clean-up staff.

In addition, I attended the General Session, which consisted of presentations regarding the Swine Flu epidemic and visited the Conference Expo. During the expo, I was able to speak with exhibitors about recycling initiatives and equipment; energy audits and leak problems at Honolulu Police Department and the NACo Prescription Drug program.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: September 3, 2009

Traveler: Todd Apo

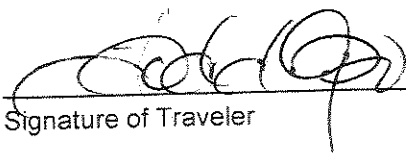
Event: 2009 NACO Annual Conference

Location: Nashville, TN

Dates: From July 24, 2009 To July 28, 2009

Description	Amount	Notes
1. Registration Fee	\$465.00	Reg. order confirmation notice attached. Check already issued
2. Airfare	\$777.71	DR: 7/16/09 9:10 pm RT: 7/29/09 3:00 pm. Check already issued
3. Hotel	\$1,651.33	
4. Meals	\$280.70	Receipts attached
5. Ground Transportation	\$590.46	Receipts attached
6. Tips	\$0.00	
7. Other		
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	\$3,765.20	\$2522.49 is the balance for hotel, meals & transportation

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:



Signature of Traveler

9/3/09

Date