

What's New in Government Affairs

Goodbye to June Gloom Edition!

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LOCAL

HELP SET GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES IN REGIONAL PLANNING: The California Air Resources Board is hosting SB 375 target-setting public workshops throughout the State in July. SB 375 requires city planners to add a Sustainable Communities Strategy to their regional planning process in order to look at how different land use and transportation strategies can help meet long-term sustainability goals. These workshops, which include public comment, are an opportunity for the public to participate in the first target-setting cycle under SB 375. Here is the workshop scheduled in our area for Tuesday, July 20, 2010m, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm:

Los Angeles Metro Building, Board Chambers – 3rd Floor
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

STATE

AP - CALIFORNIA SUES FEDS OVER RENEWABLE ENERGY LOANS: State Attorney General Jerry Brown sued the federal government, asking a judge to stop government-sponsored mortgage buyers from blocking a program that lets homeowners pay for energy-efficient improvements through increased property taxes, according to the Associated Press.

The voluntary Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program would encourage homeowners to install solar panels, better insulate their homes and take other steps to improve energy efficiency. Homeowners pay for the improvements through their property tax assessments over a decade or more. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac say the programs could give counties top priority to be repaid if homeowners default on their mortgages. As a result, they said they could not buy or guarantee mortgages on properties that participate.

Source: The Associated Press

FEDERAL

FLOOD INSURANCE UPDATE: The House of Representatives passed the "Flood Insurance Reform Priorities Act of 2010". Among the key elements of the bill is the extension of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to September 30, 2015. The actions of the House are an important step toward enacting meaningful reform for the Flood Insurance Program and ending the uncertainty of stop-gap measures that have been keeping the program in place.

The bill now will move to the U.S. Senate where the prospects of passage are not clear. Unless a longer term reauthorization is enacted, Congress will again have to consider a short-term extension before September 30 2010. Since September 2008, the House and Senate have not been able to agree on the NFIP debt reforms and thus have resorted to approving a series of short-term extensions. There have been eight such extensions so far and, twice, the NFIP authority has been allowed to expire. NAR has been actively seeking NFIP reform since 2008.

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