

SPEAKER BIOS

BAPDA General Membership Meeting • 11/2/18

Aaron Aknin, AICP, is the Assistant City Manager and Community Development Director with the City of Redwood City. In this capacity he oversees Planning, Housing, Building and Engineering activities, as well as assists with other City-wide initiatives. Prior to working in Redwood City, Aaron was the Assistant and Interim Planning Director in Palo Alto, and the Community Development Director in San Bruno. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Studies and a Master Degree in Public Policy. Aaron lives in San Carlos with his wife, Cindy, and two kids.

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Dana Brechwald is the Adapting to Rising Tides Program Manager at the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. She works with regional stakeholders to develop innovative climate adaptation and resilience solutions for the Bay shoreline. Previously, she was a Resilience Planner at the ABAG/MTC, focusing on hazard mitigation and long-term disaster recovery planning, where she designed and managed several projects aimed at increasing resilience to earthquake and climate change hazards. She has also worked in partnership with FEMA, the EPA, and local jurisdictions on long-term recovery planning, multi-hazard vulnerability assessments, and integrating resilience into the General Plan. Dana previously worked as a sustainability consultant, and with the Salvation Army and the City and County of San Francisco to develop disaster recovery guidelines and best practices. Dana currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer and President-Elect of EERI's Northern California chapter and holds a Bachelor's of Architecture from UC Berkeley, and a Masters of Urban Planning from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard.

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Anne Cheng created the GreenTRIP Certification program which awards low-traffic homes near transit. Since 2009 GreenTRIP has certified 6,000+ units (30% affordable) and supports cities in developing GreenTRIP policies. She also created GreenTRIP Connect, a FREE statewide tool to explore ways to reduce traffic while increasing housing affordability and community benefits. Connect builds in learning from years of supporting community engagement through the Great Communities Collaborative (GCC) and GCC toolkit she authored. Her work guides city, regional and state policies towards prioritizing space for people before cars by working across sectors, silos and geographies. The San Francisco Business Times recognized Ann as one of the "Top 40 Under 40" leaders in 2014, she also served as Mayor of El Cerrito in 2011 and where she grew up.

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Christina Curry was appointed Deputy Director for Planning, Preparedness and Prevention at the CA Office of Emergency Services (OES) in 2013. Ms Curry's areas of oversight include state-level Planning and Preparedness programs for all hazards, including but not limited to the State of California Emergency Plan, Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance, Radiological/ Nuclear preparedness, and the Cal OES Earthquake and Tsunami program. She also oversees Cal OES Training and Exercises, and Hazard Mitigation Planning programs. Prior to her role as Deputy Director, she served as Assistant Director in 2005 and Deputy Director of Preparedness and Training in 2008. Tina has over 25 years of experience in the area of emergency management.

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Henry L. Gardner has had a long and distinguished career in both the public and private sectors. He was appointed City Manager for the City of Oakland, California at age 36 and has the longest tenure in that position in the City's history. He was named the Most Valuable City Manager in the country in 1992 by City and State Magazine. In 1995 he established the management consulting firm of Gardner, Underwood & Bacon, providing general government advice in the areas of finance, governance, management efficiency, productivity, staff development, public-private partnerships, and focusing principally on California cities and counties. In 2003 Gardner joined the staff of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), where he served as the Executive Director until late 2010. He returned to the private sector in management consulting, where he now heads The Gardner Group LLC. He has advised dozens of cities and counties over the course of 20 years. He most recently has served as an advisor to the City of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County, California on recovery following the 2017 wildfires.

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David Guhin has over 17 years of experience in the public sector, and is currently the Assistant City Manager and Director of Planning and Economic Development for the City of Santa Rosa. Mr. Guhin has established ongoing process improvement implementations to expedite the development process, which has proven critical as he heads the rebuild effort for the City of Santa Rosa from the 2017 Tubbs Fire, which destroyed nearly 3000 homes. Mr. Guhin holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and is a current Master's Degree candidate at Sonoma State. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of California.

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Laurie Johnson, FAICP, Laurie Johnson is an internationally-recognized urban planner specializing in disaster recovery and catastrophe risk management. She currently serves as an advisor to the City of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County, California on recovery following the 2017 wildfires, and the California Earthquake Authority and Wellington, New Zealand on pre-disaster recovery planning. She is a visiting scholar at the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center (PEER) at the University of California-Berkeley. She is also the President-elect of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) and a 2018 inductee into the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners. She holds a Doctor of Informatics degree from Kyoto University and a Master of Urban Planning and Bachelor of Science in Geophysics, both from Texas A&M University.

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Cynthia Kroll, PhD, is Chief Economist and Assistant Director of Integrated Planning and Research for the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). She oversees the Economic Development and Forecasting Group within Planning and Research, and is responsible for the regional forecast, agency research related to economics and demographics, and supervises regional economic development efforts for the two organizations. Her current work includes an updated regional forecast, establishing a regional economic development district in the SF Bay Area, an evaluation of the impacts of a 7.0 earthquake along the Hayward fault, and a perspective paper on the future of jobs in the region. Dr. Kroll earned her Masters and PhD degrees in City and Regional Planning and a Bachelor's degree in Social Science and Art from the University of California Berkeley.

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Malinda Matson Malinda Matson has served, since 2014, as the Economic Development Representative for Northern and Coastal California for the Seattle Regional Office. As an EDA field representative, she works with local governments, non-profits, and institutions of higher education to develop Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies and identify projects to develop into grant applications for EDA funding.

In addition to providing technical assistance to EDA applicants and grantees, Malinda also provides guidance and technical assistance to communities that have been impacted by natural disasters and has twice served as the Field Coordinator for the Economic Recovery Support Function of the FEMA coordinated National Disaster Recovery Framework.

Malinda holds a Bachelor's Degree from Austin College in Sherman, Texas and 2 Masters Degrees from the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

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Pete Parkinson, AICP, is an independent planning consultant and President of the California Chapter of the American Planning Association. He served as director of Sonoma County's multi-disciplinary Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) until his retirement in 2013. He was also the Environmental Coordinator and Planning Manager for the County of Santa Cruz and interim planning director for Napa County. Mr. Parkinson has worked as a professional planner and manager for over 35 years.

Mr. Parkinson's experience in Sonoma and Santa Cruz counties involved extensive efforts in planning for and responding to natural disasters. He has overseen preparation of General Plan Safety Elements and Local Hazard Mitigation Plans. Following the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, Mr. Parkinson managed damage assessment and geologic hazards assessment functions for the County of Santa Cruz. He helped organize and manage a separate earthquake recovery permitting division that operated for two years following the quake. Mr. Parkinson has served the Planning and Intelligence section chief in numerous EOC activations, including several significant flooding events in Sonoma County.

Since the October 2017 wildfires in the North Bay Area, Mr. Parkinson has consulted with local governments and community organizations focused on response to the loss of over 5,000 housing units in Sonoma County alone. He is currently working with a local non-profit housing developer, Burbank Housing, on development of multi-family housing on the site of a mobile home park that was destroyed in the October fires. He is also rebuilding his own home, which was also destroyed.

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