

First Climate Change Committee Meeting Set

On June 11, the Bay Area Council will convene the first meeting of the Climate Change Committee, hosted by PricewaterhouseCoopers in San Francisco, at 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

We believe the Bay Area can and must emerge as the world leader in successfully addressing Climate Change. The more we work in this critical area, the more we recognize the intertwined relationships between climate change and the Council's existing policy priorities. We concluded that a coordinated strategy is required to address this issue.



The Council created the Climate Change Committee, which reflects the coming together of virtually every Council Committee, as the work of each either directly or indirectly touches on climate change, the challenge of our time. Led by Council members Don Bell, Bell Microproducts, and Jeffrey Heller, Heller Manus Architects, the Committee will advance and influence the development, approval, and execution of business focused strategies in land use, energy, transportation, state and federal legislation, and public/private projects that ensure a livable, sustainable, and prosperous future for Bay Area residents and employers in a low-carbon economy.

The work and recommendations of this committee will feed into the efforts of the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, which is working to address the issue regionally through a broad group of stakeholders.

This committee is open to all members. If you are interested in attending and/or serving on the committee, please [contact Pearl Mazzini](#).

Budget Crisis Displays Drastic Need for Reform

This week was one big reality check for California. There are no surprises here, and if the Governor's proposed budget cuts come to fruition, all Californians will share the pain. Programs like Cal Grant, a student financial aid program, CalWORKs, a welfare-to-work program, and Healthy Families, a children's health insurance program, are all on the chopping block. Californians could see nearly all state parks closed, including Mount Tamalpais and Mount Diablo. The Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) would cease to be a state agency eligible for state funding. Among other recommendations, the Governor has proposed to massively reduce the number of state prison guards which could result in early release of convicted prisoners. Education, which receives the greatest share of funding, will likely take the biggest hit, with transportation and local governments right behind. If the budget is not in place by July, State Treasurer Bill Lockyer and Controller John Chiang warn that the state will run into a cash flow crisis that would halt many services and projects. We are closely monitoring the action, but it is absolutely clear there are no miracles here, and our call for reform is being heard everywhere.