

March 22, 2012

Flash No. 27

February Luncheon Speaker

Claire Zucker, Director of the Sustainable Environment Program, Pima Association of Governments (PAG) was guest speaker at the February 22, 2012 SAEMS luncheon. Ms. Zucker presented a new program focusing on sustainability by promoting environmental stewardship through data development, monitoring, education, planning, advising and coordination. The Sustainable Environment Program (SEP) serves the PAG jurisdictions with resources on data, modeling, etc to aid regional planning efforts. This program combines watershed and air quality planning with travel demand management to create an integrated and cohesive group poised to work with sustainability efforts throughout the region. Considerations include environment and people issues, public perceptions, climate change debate and other sustainability elements. The program promotes travel reduction ordinances, and provides outreach efforts on Rideshare and Van Pool programs. Water use discussions include mandates on CPA use, effluent reuse & low-impact development. Their goal is to connect sustainability with economic vitality. Interested members should check also out the 2012 Arid LID Conference www.aridlid.org here in Tucson, on March 27-29, 2012. We want to thank Claire Zucker for joining us at SAEMS!

March Luncheon Speaker

This month our luncheon speaker will be Kate Riley, General Manager for Sun Tran and Sun Van. Ms. Riley is responsible for all day-to-day operations of a critical infrastructure that provides more than 20 million passenger trips each year. From operating an environmentally-friendly bus fleet, to obtaining LEED Gold Certification for its new bus facility, and managing an Environmental Management System to ISO 14001 standards, Kate is charged with guiding Sun Tran and Sun Van's strategic initiatives, including those to create a more sustainable community and attract riders to transit. Kate began her career at Sun Tran in 1981 as the Director of Human Resources, and was promoted to Assistant General Manager in 2007. She was selected to serve in Sun Tran and Sun Van's top leadership position in January of this year. She holds a master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix, and a bachelor's degree in personnel and organizational management and finance from Gonzaga University. Kate Riley will update SAEMS on Sun Tran's sustainability efforts and future growth, and just how Sun Tran has accommodated the demand and kept an eye on environmental sustainability, while ridership has grown by nearly 50 percent over the last decade. In addition to addressing engineering and environmental challenges related to the new facility, Kate will share the future of transit, including expansion of services funded by the Regional Transportation Authority. Please contact Dan Williams at Daniel.Williams@uahealth.com by March 23, 2012 if you plan to attend the luncheon. You can register and pay via PayPal at http://www.saems.org/luncheon_info_frameset.htm. Late registrations (received after March 23, 2012) will be charged \$5.00 extra, and may depend on whether seats remain.

SAEMS Quick Bulletins

- SAEMS Secretary David Mack has stepped down from his position, due to conflicting work obligations. Derek Koller of Allwyn Environmental was appointed by the board to act as SAEMS Secretary until the upcoming Board elections. The Board extends a warm welcome to Derek!
- The new 2011-2012 SAEMS membership directory and the SAEMS Q1 and Q2 financial statements are now posted on the SAEMS website. The directory and financial information are password protected and available for viewing by SAEMS members only.
- SAVE THE DATE! The annual SAEMS RCRA Seminar will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2012.
- If you or someone you know is job-hunting in the environmental field, please check the SAEMS Current Events: Job Openings webpage at http://www.saems.org/job_openings_frameset.htm for positions that are forwarded to SAEMS for posting.



Claire Zucker, Director of the Sustainable Environment Program, Pima Association of Governments, speaks to SAEMS members at the February luncheon meeting.

SAEMS 2012 – 2013 Board Nominations

The nominating committee for the 2012-2013 SAEMS board is currently seeking nominees! Our Vice-President, Dan Williams, and our Communications Coordinator, Sarah Hartwell, have agreed to remain on their post. The treasurer position is a 2-year term so Barb Ricca will be staying.

We have openings for the President-Elect and Secretary positions. Derek Koller has agreed to run for the Secretary position; however, we are still looking for someone to run for the President-Elect position. The Vice-President and Communications Coordinator positions are also open to anyone who would like to run. Please submit nominations as soon as possible so our membership can vote.

February Highway Cleanup

On February 11th, a Saturday with perfect early spring weather, the SAEMS highway litter cleanup crew was hard at work. A total of 9 volunteers cleaned the SAEMS adopted mile of Interstate-10. Weighing about 500 pounds, 24 bags of litter were collected. SAEMS volunteers included: Ken Asch, Barb Ricca, Dan Williams, Michael Dieckhaus (and daughter Laurel), Mike Block (and cousin Al). Joining us were two Tetra Tech employees: Nick Cristi and Terra Michaels. The group enjoyed breakfast at TTT after the cleanup. Mike Block won the \$10 Starbucks gift card for finding a pretty princess tea set complete with 4 cups/saucers (light pink, dark pink, blue and white) and a beautiful tea pot. The men enjoyed a tea party in the TTT parking lot.

SAEMS February Highway Cleanup volunteers Mike Block, Ken Asch and Al Jorissen pose with their findings.



LEPC Business Education Seminar

The Pima County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) held a well-attended Business Education Seminar related to hazmat and emergency planning on Wednesday, February 29th. SAEMS assisted with sponsor registration. Starting small this first year, a total of three sponsors registered. \$300 was collected and will be placed in the SAEMS education fund for future Southern AZ hazmat education and training. Thank you to the SAEMS members that attended the seminar and/or supported the LEPC.

EPA Provides \$750,000 in Smart Growth Assistance to Communities

The EPA recently named 56 communities in 26 states that will receive technical assistance through the Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities program. Each community will receive the assistance from EPA-funded private-sector experts. The technical experts will work with the communities on actions they can take to improve the economy, the environment, and quality of life. Some examples may include improving pedestrian access and safety, incorporating green infrastructure, or conducting an economic and fiscal health assessment. Surprise, Arizona was among the 56 communities selected to receive assistance. 350 applicants were assessed through a competitive process in consultation with EPA's regional offices, HUD, DOT and the USDA.

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities is a project of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities among EPA, HUD and the DOT. The interagency collaboration coordinates federal investments in infrastructure, facilities, and services to get better results for communities and use taxpayer money more efficiently. The partnership is helping communities across the country create more housing choices, make transportation more efficient and reliable, reinforce existing investments, and support vibrant and healthy neighborhoods that attract businesses.

"EPA is proud to support the work that communities around the nation are doing to become more environmentally sustainable," said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA's Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. "The Building Blocks program will help them find development solutions that will save money, energy and resources while creating more jobs and opportunities." More information on the Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/buildingblocks.htm>