

WEEKLY FLASH



Mary Nichols, Air Board Chief, Reviews AB32 with Council Bill Morrow, President and CEO of Pacific Gas & Electric Company, and Chair of the Bay Area Council Energy Committee (pictured at right), led a packed meeting of members discussing the implementation of the new [California Global Warming Solutions Act](#) with Mary Nichols. Nichols, the new Chair of the California Air Resources Board, emphasized the enormity of the task – a 25% cut in carbon emissions by 2020 – while enabling Californians to maintain their lifestyle. Pointing to past [smog reduction efforts in Los Angeles](#), especially NOx emissions, getting catalytic converters on cars, and other programs that initially raised hackles but were eventually successful, she said she is confident the state can meet its target. She assured the audience that the Air Board is soberly aware of the mismanaged energy deregulation initiative, and that they will craft a more flexible system that can quickly respond to shifting circumstances. The Air Board must have its [final plan](#) by the end of 2008.



In response to questions, she said rural California will play its part by capturing carbon in forests, and improving fertilizer practices; that booming industries like biotechnology that didn't exist in 1990 need not fear any harness on their growth; and that California should fight for federal legislation. She called on the Bay Area Council to help plug holes in the Scoping Plan and help the Air Board develop workable mechanisms and regulations, like Cap-and-Trade, for the business community.

Annual Dinner Sells Out

For the second year in a row, the [Bay Area Council's Annual Dinner](#) has sold out, with approximately 1,000 business and government leaders attending. The turnout is a tribute to the Business Hall of Fame attendees, plus the keynote speakers, and will force the Council to find larger facilities next year to hold the Bay Area's "best business event."

Article of the Week

This [SF Chronicle article](#) explores our region's high pay...and even higher costs.

Quote of the Week

"What Perata is doing, very intelligently in my view, is calling their bluff." – The Governor's water advisor, Phil Isenberg, on [water policy debates](#) in the current special session.

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