

Sustainability Focused Trip Opens Dialogue in DC

A Bay Area Council led delegation of some of the nation's leading executives of sustainable real estate infill development travelled to Washington D.C. this week to meet with lawmakers and senior administration officials to push for the removal of many of the bureaucratic obstacles that have and continue to make urban development so difficult and expensive.

The Obama Administration has made sustainability and sustainable development a top policy priority and has taken a very important step in that regard by asking the Environmental Protection Agency, The Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development to work together in a coordinated manner to make this policy a reality in our cities.

The delegation heard repeatedly that the timing of the visit could not be more opportune and both the department officials and elected officials that we met with were eager to hear from our members what we think needs to be done to facilitate sustainable development projects. The delegation had productive meetings with the Environmental Protection Agency, The Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, House Financial Services, Fannie Mae, and the Federal Housing Authority. In The Capitol they met with Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Congressman George Miller, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, Congressman Richard Neal, and Congressman Earl Blumenauer.

After our second successful trip of 2009 it is becoming abundantly clear that the federal government is looking to the Bay Area for thought leadership in many areas not least of which is sustainability. After listening to the delegation's presentations Speaker Pelosi commented "After healthcare is done, my flagship issue will be sustainability.....we need a green revolution to create jobs."

Quote of the Week

"Business is very linear; it relies on careful planning. Politics is a day by day street fight."
- Political consultant [Darry Sragow](#) on Meg Whitman's shift from business to politics.

