

5-03

public policy updates

Stepping up to the challenges of a new year, the Chamber's Public Policy department has revamped its agenda and committee structure and added new staff to carry out its ambitious initiatives.

The **Workforce Housing & Land Use Committee** will be staffed by Lisbet Sunshine, who is new to the Chamber and will be working to implement the Workforce Housing Initiative while continuing her role as executive director of the Municipal Fiscal Advisory Committee (MFAC) to the Mayor. MFAC is a business organization that develops partnerships between the private and public sectors to promote cost-efficiencies and increased revenues in government. Prior to joining MFAC, Sunshine worked in marketing and communications for a variety of private and governmental entities, including database infrastructure start-up Zembu Inc., San Francisco International Airport, the San Francisco Department of Parking and Traffic and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Todd Ewing has joined the Chamber to work with the **San Francisco Center for Economic Development (SFCED)**, and to

staff the **Water & Power Committee**, which will focus on working with the SFPUC to implement the Hetch Hetchy rebuild and examine issues concerning San Francisco's future energy needs. Ewing worked on the campaign to Save Hetch Hetchy, and has extensive experience in economic development. Most recently, he was manager and West Coast liaison for Arthur Andersen's Economic Development Group that consulted with real-estate developers regarding operations, technology and policy issues. Ewing's experience includes working with local and national governments to establish governmental and regulatory frameworks conducive to business and investment attraction.

Amiee Albertson will staff the new **Quality of Life Committee**, which will address a variety of issues including street beautification, Care Not Cash implementation, and, potentially, justice and public safety. Albertson will also work on workforce housing, and will continue to staff the SFCED. Albertson recently received a masters of Public Policy degree from the Goldman

School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley. She previously represented municipal agencies on federal water and environmental issues for a Washington, DC-area consulting firm..

A new **Economic Development Committee**, staffed by the SFCED's John Crapo, will expand on the work being done by the SFCED to produce sound economic analysis that can inform business retention and attraction policies.

The **Transportation Committee** will continue its focus on alleviating congestion and advocating for sound transportation policy, and plans to step-up its efforts concerning the San Francisco International Airport Runway modernization program. This committee will continue to be staffed by Gwyneth Borden, who will also assume the role of the Chamber's primary City Hall advocate.

The **Education Committee** will continue its work with school improvement strategies.

All of the Public Policy committee meetings, including the Supes for Lunch series and Public Policy Forums, are open to all Chamber members. Members do not have to be a member of a committee to participate. Be sure to take advantage of these opportunities to get involved and stay informed.

more in '03



The website has been reorganized into four distinct user areas:



Members Only, Up-to-the-Minute, Chamber, public policy and local business news; Special Offers; and Travel Deals for the high volume of tourists who visit the Chamber seeking personal travel savings when they come to San Francisco. Coming in March, www.sfchamber.com will roll out a members-only (and one just for members who attend Women in Business Roundtable programs) password-protected sector for easy access to early registration, custom values and key economic information.

To participate in any of the Chamber's public policy initiatives, e-mail publicpolicy@sfchamber.com, and to take advantage of member programs, e-mail lfoley@sfchamber.com.

Here's to a prosperous 2003!

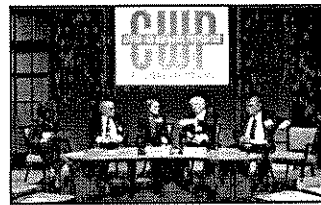
sfworks hailed as national model

SFWorks, the Chamber's nonprofit workforce-development affiliate, was showcased at the US Chamber of Commerce's Workforce Development Leadership Course this past fall in Washington, DC.

Nationwide, Chamber CEOs estimate that 88 percent of their members see workforce development as a high priority. Organized by the US Chamber's Center for Workforce Preparation, the two-day Leadership Course trains local chamber of commerce executives to address their memberships' concerns about recruiting, retaining and training workers.

"Chambers can be key workforce leaders in their communities, if they are armed with the right information and resources, and bring together the right partners to focus on their communities' economic development and growth," says Beth B. Buehlmann, executive director of the Center for Workforce Preparation. To date, 90 professionals from 82 chambers of commerce have completed the course.

San Francisco was one of four local chambers whose workforce development practices were highlighted during the October meeting. Co-founded by the Chamber and Committee on Jobs in 1997, SFWorks devel-



ops customized solutions to businesses' workforce-development needs. "The workforce-development system can be

intimidating to businesses. SFWorks navigates the maze of public, private and nonprofit entities on behalf of employers, making it easy and inexpensive for them to hire qualified employees and to retain and upgrade the skills of their existing workforce," says Terri Feeley, SFWorks' executive director. "Our efforts support the Chamber's mission of attracting, developing and retaining business in San Francisco."

More information about SFWorks is available at www.sfworks.org or by calling 415-217-5193.