

Alumni Panel Discussion

6:00-7:00pm

“Environmental Planning and Policy in the Bay Area”

Professor Raquel Rivera Pinderhughes, Moderator

Barbara Bernardini (B.A. 1991) has over 19 years of experience in recycling and waste management. Her transition to waste management from community relations and public affairs coincided with her entry into SFSU and the Urban Studies Program. She has been in her current position as recycling coordinator for South San Francisco Scavenger Company (SSFSC) and Blue Line Transfer & Recycling since 2000. SSFSC, established in 1913, serves the cities of Brisbane, South San Francisco, Millbrae and the San Francisco International Airport. Her responsibilities include planning recycling programs for both residential and commercial sectors and providing technical assistance to businesses, city agencies and schools. She is currently assisting SF International Airport to achieve their waste reduction goal of 75% by 2010. Barbara is on the board of directors of the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce and she is a member of the South San Francisco Community Preservation Task Force.

Aaron Akin graduated from SFSU with a degree in Urban Studies in 2000, with a focus on Land Use Planning. Since that time, he has worked as a planner for both private firms and public agencies, including the City of San Bruno. He began as an Assistant Planner for San Bruno, and gradually became an Associate Planner, Senior Planner and was promoted to Community Development Director in 2006. As Community Development Director he is in charge of the Planning, Building, Code Enforcement, Redevelopment and Housing Divisions. While the other divisions are both challenging and interesting, Planning, Redevelopment and Housing are still his favorites. Despite development slowing down considerably with the last year, San Bruno has entitled over 1,500 new housing units over the past five years. Long Range Planning and Redevelopment projects he is currently working on include the City's first General Plan in 25 years, a Specific Plan for our Downtown and Transit Corridor Area, the 2009 Housing Element, Residential Design Guidelines and a Redevelopment Implementation Plan. Whether processing planning entitlements or being involved in long range plans, he truly enjoys engaging members of the public in the planning process. Although skeptical at first, many people want to put trust in their local government officials, and are genuinely satisfied when one is responsive to their needs.

Alex Amoroso, AICP is a practicing planner with two decades of experience. He received his Urban Studies degree at SFSU in 1986, and has since held a wide variety of positions in local and regional government, and as a consulting planner. Alex's range of experience includes work with housing programs, numerous development types (residential, commercial, industrial), general and specific plan management and more. Alex also participates in the planning community through work with APA conferences and other activities (national, state, local), as a

member of the California Planning Roundtable and as a guest lecturer at SFSU and in other venues. Alex is currently is Principal Planner at the City of Berkeley Planning Department.

Elmer Tosta received his BA in Urban Studies from SFSU in 2005 and is currently in the SFSU graduate program in geography. His studies focus on the issues of parking and gentrification in the San Francisco's Market Octavia neighborhood. He has devoted his time to advocacy regarding transportation and land use issues. He currently serves on the Kaiser Community Task Force, Beideman Area Neighborhood Group, and is a regular contributor to the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC) newsletter as well serving as a volunteer for various SFBC activities, including Bike to Work Day.