Network Planning for Regional Sustainability: The Case of Collaborative Regional Initiatives in California

Dr. Judith Innes
Professor Emerita of City & Regional Planning at the UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design

Judith Innes was on the faculty of the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of California Berkeley from 1975 until she retired in 2011. She directed the Institute of Urban and Regional Development from 1994 to 2004, where she also headed the Oakland Metropolitan Forum, a cooperative program between the University and the city of Oakland. Her early research focused on social indicators and information for public policy, and since 1990 she has researched consensus building and collaboration across policy arenas including growth and environmental management, land use, water, and transportation. Her current work on governance and networks is informed by complexity theory. She is the co-author (with David Booher) of Planning with Complexity: An Introduction to Collaborative Rationality for Public Policy (Routledge 2010), and author of dozens of articles, books, and monographs. She holds the Ph.D. from MIT’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning and an undergraduate degree from Harvard.

About the talk... Planning today involves not just analysis, plan making or outreach. Increasingly planning is taking place almost invisibly through networks linking civic leaders, stakeholders, private sector actors, and public agencies. Indeed networks may offer the only realistic way to do planning in a metropolitan region with hundreds of independent entities with differing agendas and capabilities. This talk will focus on four such networks, Joint Venture Silicon Valley, The Sierra Business Council, San Diego Dialogue, and the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities, looking at how each contributed to the sustainability of its region. It will identify approaches to building and maintaining these networks that have been more and less effective and offer some theory about planning through networks.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6TH | 12:15PM-1:30PM
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