

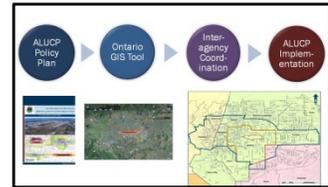
APA California - Inland Empire Section

Leisa Lukes, *Inland Empire Section Director*

The Inland Empire Section (IES) is comprised of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. These two counties comprise a vast area of nearly 30,000 square miles and over 4 million in population. San Bernardino alone is the largest county in size in the contiguous United States and together, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties have been one of the fastest growing areas in the United States in the past half century. One reason is that many Los Angeles area workers moved to the Inland Empire to take advantage of its quality communities and relatively affordable housing.

The world-renown resort cities of the Coachella Valley are located in eastern Riverside County. The IES hosted the very successful 2012 APA California Chapter Conference in Rancho Mirage, one of nine cities in the Coachella Valley, from October 21-24. Over 1,000 attendees had an enjoyable and educational time. The opening-day golf tournament created many fun memories for the 44 players, several of whom took away great prizes but, alas, the 2013 Cadillac ATS went back to the dealer as no one got the lucky hole-in-one.

We are especially proud that three of the APA California Chapter award winners recognized at the conference were also 2012 Inland Empire Section award winners. *The Ontario International Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP)* received the Focused Issue Planning Award as an innovative and comprehensive planning document of unusually high merit addressing the impacts related to airport planning. The ALUCP, developed by the City of Ontario, is the first time a city in the state of California has developed this type of document, which is typically developed by an Airport Land Use Commission.



The City of Cathedral City was the recipient of the Grassroots Initiative Award for its *ECD Kids and Community Program*. This unique and inspirational environmental education and awareness program joins together government staff, community activists, educators, artists, environmentalists, local businesses, volunteers and youth. The collaborative team creates hands-on environmental projects that reduce landfill waste and beautify the landscape. The Anti-Litter Decorative Trash Can Project and other endeavors are unique as they provide local youth with an active role in planning local community enhancement efforts.



The APA California Chapter Distinguished Leadership: Professional Planner was awarded to *Dr. James L. Mulvihill, Ph.D., AICP*. Dr. Mulvihill has distinguished himself as an academic planner, citizen planner, practicing planner and author in the Inland Empire over the past 30 years. He is Professor Emeritus in the Geography Department at California State University San Bernardino, creator of the University's Urban Planning Certificate, and author of a 2009 book on the Practice of Planning in the Inland Empire. Dr. Mulvihill continues to serve as a City of San Bernardino Planning Commissioner as he has for the last six years. Congratulations again to all of the winners and the best to them as they move on to the National Awards!



Ongoing Section Activities

In addition to monthly board meetings, the Inland Empire Section holds many informational and entertaining programs throughout the year, several of which are in partnership with other related professional organizations, such as the US Green Building Council (USGBC) the Association of Environmental Planners (AEP) and the American Public Works Association (APWA).

The Inland Empire Section is also a sponsor of ArtVULUPS (Art as a Vehicle to Understand Land Use Planning and Sustainability). Its mission is to communicate land use planning and sustainability concepts through art and creative expression. This public art process involves a collaborative approach involving artists, urban planners, educators and the public, and is the result of a ten-year assemblage of relationships encompassing geography, environmental science, land use planning, sustainability, art and creativity concepts. ArtVULUPS was the topic of two sessions at the 2012 National APA conference in Los Angeles.

Please visit our website, www.ies-apa.org, for more information. We encourage all Inland Empire members and others to *get involved!*