

**Report -- Difference in Pay Leave
Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
Thomas Jacobson, JD, MCP, FAICP
Professor
Department of Environmental Studies and Planning**

Submitted August 2017

Purpose

The purposes of this Difference in Pay Leave were to advance my research and scholarship agenda, strengthen the curriculum in my courses in the Department of Environmental Studies and Planning (now Geography, Environment, and Planning) at Sonoma State, strengthen international collaborations, and contribute to addressing critical policy questions, such as how to better integrate water resources and land use planning.

Activities and Accomplishments

1. Book: *Basics of California Land Use Planning*

When I began this DIP leave, I had an agreement with Solano Press Books to write a book titled *The Basics of California Land Use Planning*. This reference/text book on the basic structure of the planning process and land use regulation in California is intended for a broad audience, including university students in planning, public policy, business, and a variety of other fields; planning commissioners and elected officials; community activists; architects, builders, lenders, and real estate professionals; attorneys; and others who may engage with the planning process or who would benefit from a basic understanding of the procedures for the review of land use and development proposals. It will also be useful for those considering a career in planning, planners transplanting to California, and people with a strong background in a limited aspect of planning or related fields (e.g., housing, public works, transportation, economic development, or public health) but who lack a comprehensive view of planning.

During this leave, I completed a draft of this book and have begun circulating chapters for peer review. I will be using draft chapters in two of my classes during the Fall 2017 semester at SSU.

2. Visiting Scholar, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, University of California, Santa Barbara

I was invited to be a Visiting Scholar at the Bren School during the fall of my DIP leave period. While at Bren, I pursued my research interests in closer integration between a range of environmental issues, playing to Bren's strengths in water resources management, sea level rise and other coastal issues, conservation planning, climate change, etc., and my own background in land use planning. In particular, I focused on

integrating land use planning and water resources, and land use planning for the interface between urban development and wildfire areas. I also lectured on environmental planning in a course for masters students in Environmental Science and Management.

3. Research on integrating land use and water resources planning

This work was central to my DIP leave. Its particular focus has been an investigation of the intersection of groundwater management and land use planning in California. This topic is important and timely given California's new "Sustainable Groundwater Management Act." While the "SGMA" establishes unprecedented and needed mandates for regulating groundwater extraction, it appears to stop short of requiring a close connection between land use planning and groundwater management. Thus, my work has looked at existing provisions in this regard, new ones mandated by SGMA, and what additional measures may be appropriate.

As noted above, this topic was a focus of my stay at the Bren School during the fall. In addition:

- I presented some of my work on this topic at the annual conference of the International Academic Association for Planning, Law, and Property Rights, "Land Use and Water Planning in California: New Potential, New Issues," in Hong Kong (February 2017). This resulted in establishing or building upon existing professional relationships with a number of colleagues working in this field, including:

Rachelle Alterman, Technion University, Israel
Thomas Hartmann, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands
Eran Kaplinsky, University of Edmonton, Canada,
Richard Norton, University of Michigan
David Amborski, Ryerson University, Canada

- I made important connections with the University of New South Wales Global Water Institute, a new, interdisciplinary center at that university.
- I was invited to help facilitate a conference, "Land Use and Water: Breaking Down the Silos," convened by the California Economic Summit and the University of California President's Office (and have been asked to assume a similar role at this year's conference).
- I worked on obtaining funding from the Sonoma County Water Agency to develop and teach a course on Land Use and Water Resources Planning, which my department will offer for the first time Spring 2018.
- I continued my work with the California Department of Water Resources in developing materials related to this topic (e.g., a Return on Investment Calculator for site design approaches that integrate water and land management).

4. Research regarding land use planning for urban/wildfire interface areas.

As noted above, this was a topic I became involved with during my stay as Visiting Scholar at the Bren School (UC Santa Barbara), working with Dr. Max Moritz of UC Cooperative Extension. With him, I helped supervise a group of graduate students at Cornell researching best practices in this field. I will be continuing this collaboration this year.

Benefits to the University

The research and writing I completed during this DIP leave will benefit my classroom teaching directly. I will begin utilizing it this semester, both in my own classes (Introduction to Planning and U.S. Environmental Law) and with contributions to other courses in our department (e.g., Planning Workshop and Environmental Impact Assessment).