

The Sustainable Living Research Initiative

Creating a Model Regulatory Framework – A Panel Discussion with the Experts
Including Q&A with the Audience

When: 1:30pm – 4:00pm, September 25th, 2014
Where: McCune Conference Room, UCSB Campus

The Panel: Marc Fisher, Vice Chancellor of Campus Design & Facilities, UCSB
Bill Kelley, Chief Building Official, Marin County
Art Ludwig, Ecological/Integrative Design Expert & Author, Oasis Design
Carl Palmer, Sustainable Land Developer/Investor, Legacy Works
Mark Tollefson, Executive Director, Fairview Gardens, Goleta
Meg West, Planning Commissioner, City of Goleta

Facilitated by: Ben Werner, Sama Group

Space is limited: To participate, please register at:
<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sustainable-living-research-initiative-tickets-12105793755>

Overview

The Sustainable Living Research Initiative (**SLRI**) seeks to promote innovation in building, zoning, and health codes in order to support sustainable development and land use practices. In partnership with local experts and research/educational institutions, this Initiative aims to create a safe means to regulate and oversee leading-edge best practices in sustainable living that will influence the next generation of development.

The **SLRI** is intended for situations where the following factors are present:

- 1) Property owners, designers, or researchers interested in innovation
- 2) Research/educational institutions and local experts available to help design, test, and evaluate projects
- 3) Local policy makers and regulatory agency staff interested in supporting this Initiative

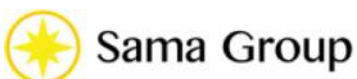
This question will be the focus of our discussion:

What regulatory framework needs to be in place to support this Initiative?

Context

There is a growing sense of urgency. We need to create options for development and land use that actually improve and regenerate the ecosystems that support us. There is a long history of efforts to achieve this goal, including green rating systems and codes that have made much progress on many pieces of the puzzle. The objective of the **SLRI** is to create a regulatory framework for innovation that: 1) encompasses the entire permitting landscape (zoning, public health, fire, building, etc.); 2) allows enough flexibility for context-specific integrated systems design together with sufficient oversight to ensure that public safety is protected, and 3) adheres to the General Plan of the participating municipality.

We look forward to your participation in this strategy-shaping discussion!



The Sustainable Living Research Initiative – Updated August 2014

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To date, the **SLRI** has supported constructive dialog across historically tense lines, such as between environmental groups and developers, based on shared common objectives of an environmentally and economically sustainable future. These two critical needs - to create environmental vitality, and to meet the needs of human beings, are in fact only truly met when the same action is accomplishing both. *This is the philosophical foundation of the Sustainable Living Research Initiative.*

Historically there have been many attempts to create support in codes for sustainable development, and some successes along certain avenues. The comprehensive, whole-systems approach of the **SLRI** in Santa Barbara County has been initiated by a Sustainable Living Research Ordinance (SLRO) drafted by Sama Group. Based on similar ordinances adopted in the pacific northwest, the SLRO has been endorsed by **UCSB's** Chancellor's Committee on Sustainability, **CalPoly SLO** faculty and student groups, the **Community Environmental Council**, the **Sierra Club**, the UCSB Student **ECOalition**, the **Gaviota Coast Conservancy**, the **Interfaith Initiative**, and others. The **City of Goleta** has incorporated the SLRO into their new draft zoning ordinance, and the SLRO was recently voted onto the **Santa Barbara County** Work Program by the SB County Planning Commission. Members of the **Santa Barbara City** Council Sustainability Committee recently engaged with Sama Group to present the **SLRI** to the City.

The **SLRI** has the potential to bridge the gap between mainstream development and emerging practices such as permaculture, natural building, and human-integrated ecological design. These emerging practices can create healthy living environments that are so functional, and so appealing, that when made visible to a broader spectrum of society, a new standard will be set for the next generation of development that actually improves the health of the environment that supports it. *The Sustainable Living Research Initiative is a bridge to such a future.*

Sama Group's co-director, Ben Werner, has led the Sustainable Living Research Initiative. Ben is an entrepreneur in the field of sustainability, including the design and implementation of local community currencies as a component of Sama Group's "Monetary Democracy" initiative, including a Food Independence Co-Operative (Food Indy Co-Op). Ben is a graduate of UCSB with an M.S. in electrical engineering, and he maintains a hobby of research into sustainable energy and transportation systems, including his electric vehicle startup company, Revolution Motors. Ben lives in a *sustainable living research site* with natural buildings and onsite water reuse systems in a permaculture food forest in downtown Santa Barbara.



Sama is a Sanskrit word meaning same or equal; balanced, coherent, perfectly integrated. **Sama Group** is a design team and action network dedicated to implementing solutions to core, systemic issues affecting all levels of society, with a focus in monetary system(s), and sustainable living & technology.