

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, January 18, 2012

### **“THE NEW METROPOLIS: Building a Sustainable and Healthy Bay Area in the Age of Global Warming” Saturday, February 4, 2012 at 10:00 A.M. Rialto Cinemas Cerrito in El Cerrito**

The City of El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee is hosting a free screening and community dialogue about the new film, *The New Metropolis*, which explores land use policy issues through stories from America's cities and first suburbs. The event will take place at **Rialto Cinemas Cerrito on Saturday, February 4, 10:00 A.M-2:00 P.M. (doors open at 9:30 A.M; screening from 10:00-12:30pm.** Jazz vocalist Jennifer Johns will provide a spirited opening to the day. Following the screening, community dialog groups continue from 12:30 P.M-2:00 P.M. at Nong Thon Vietnamese restaurant in El Cerrito, with complimentary appetizers. The event is free and open to the public. The forum is being presented by the City of El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee and co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and Torrice Productions. Registration is strongly encouraged as space is limited.

“THE NEW METROPOLIS: Building a Sustainable and Healthy Bay Area in the Age of Global Warming” will bring together policy makers and community members to discuss strategies for urban and suburban revitalization and environmental sustainability in the Bay Area.

Award-winning filmmaker **Andrea Torrice** will show segments from her recent PBS series, *The New Metropolis*, as well as premiere a new segment about the Bay Area. Following the screening, the group will engage in a dialog lead by community leaders on themes such as Food and Water; Housing and Transportation; Health and Air Quality; Climate Change Adaptation; the Role of Education, Arts and Media; and Economic Development.

**Tickets:** Free, but registration is strongly encouraged. Register by sending your name and number of tickets to [green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us)

For information: [www.el-cerrito.org/eqc/newmetropolis](http://www.el-cerrito.org/eqc/newmetropolis) or (510) 215-4318

This event is wheelchair accessible.

The invited presenters and panelists include:

**Janet Abelson**, El Cerrito Council member and transit policy expert

**Carl Anthony**, architect, author, regional design strategist, Co-Founder of Breakthrough Communities, and former Director of the Ford Foundation's Sustainable Metropolitan Communities Initiative and the Regional Equity Demonstration in the United States;

**Mark Desaulnier**, State Senator

**Loni Hancock**, State Senator

**Paloma Pavel, PhD**, El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee member, author of *Breakthrough Communities: Sustainability and Justice in the Next American Metropolis* (MIT Press), and Vice President of West Contra Costa County League of Women Voters

**Nancy Skinner**, State Assembly

**Andrea Torrice**, Filmmaker, *The New Metropolis*

**Will Travis**, Outgoing director Bay Area Conservation and Development Commission and incoming Policy Director of One Bay Area

El Cerrito Councilmember Janet Abelson said, “This event is an exciting opportunity to combine a documentary film with an educational program by viewing the film and then having small group discussions about the questions raised in the film. I am thrilled that the City Environmental Quality Committee is presenting this event to help raise awareness and encourage residents to get involved regarding environmental concerns.”

Documentary director Andrea Torrice remarked "The New Metropolis tells the compelling human story of the consequences of misguided land use policy. It also points towards solutions. I hope it inspires communities in the Bay Area to see that change is possible.”

Environmental Quality Committee member and event coordinator Dr. Paloma Pavel said, “As an Environmental Quality Committee member, I am inspired by the way in which the City of El Cerrito is in the forefront of a number of environmental policy issues like building a LEED-certified recycling center, and leading the EPA-funded Small Cities Climate Action Partnership Grant. This film event is another example of the ways in which the EQC is working to build community, provide information and link environmental policy to local action.”

This event is part of a series of dialogues taking place across the country about community revitalization.

The post-screening community dialogues will be facilitated by members of the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee, the League of Women Voters, and, representatives from the Regional Asthma Management Project, California Walks, Association of Bay Area Governments, Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia’s Office, Public Advocates, Transform, Urban Habitat, Genisis, Alameda County Office of Education, Bay Localize and elected officials from the City of Clayton, the City of Richmond and AC Transit.

### **Calendar Listing:**

“THE NEW METROPOLIS: Building a Sustainable and Healthy Bay Area in the Age of Global Warming”

City of El Cerrito’s screening of Andrea Torrice’s *The New Metropolis* followed by a panel discussion with East Bay government officials and community leaders about regional strategies for building sustainable communities in an age of climate change.

Saturday, February 4, 2012, 10:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M. (doors open at 9:30 A.M.)

Rialto Cinemas Cerrito in El Cerrito

10070 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Followed by community discussion, 12:30 P.M.-2:00 P.M. at Nong Thon Vietnamese restaurant, 10086 San Pablo, El Cerrito CA 94530.

Appetizers provided, including vegetarian option.

Tickets: Free, but registration is encouraged. Register by sending your name and number of tickets to [green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us)

For information: [www.el-cerrito.org/eqc/newmetropolis](http://www.el-cerrito.org/eqc/newmetropolis) or 510-215-4318

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**For more information about *The New Metropolis*, go to: [www.thenewmetropolis.com](http://www.thenewmetropolis.com).** For more information about the City of El Cerrito's Environmental Quality Committee, go to [www.el-cerrito.org/eqc](http://www.el-cerrito.org/eqc)

**DVD screeners of *The New Metropolis* are available. Film press kits and photos of *The New Metropolis* are available online at <http://www.thenewmetropolis.com/resources.html>**

Director Andrea Torrice and many of the panelists are available for interviews. Please contact Nancy Fishman if you would like to view a DVD screener or arrange an interview, at (510) 290-0255 or [nancykfishman@gmail.com](mailto:nancykfishman@gmail.com)

### **About the New Metropolis**

*The New Metropolis* documentary is currently airing on public television stations across the country and is the first public examination of issues facing America's older, "first ring" suburbs. Considered the birthplace of the American Dream, these towns were built during a period of national prosperity and financed with government support after World War II. Now many of these once highly desirable communities face the same challenges urban areas do: growing poverty, white flight, a crumbling infrastructure, abandonment, and the continual lure of newer communities further from the cities. *The New Metropolis* consists of two half-hour episodes and several shorts. They include:

**Episode 1: *A Crack in the Pavement***, narrated by actor **Peter Coyote**, explores the national infrastructure crises through the stories of two suburban Ohio public officials as they struggle to fix their broken infrastructure and save their aging communities.

**Episode 2: *The New Neighbors***, narrated by Academy Award nominated actress **Ruby Dee**, tells the inspiring story of two ordinary people, one black and one white, who made racial integration the centerpiece of revitalizing Pennsauken, New Jersey, a suburban town of Philadelphia.

### **Episode 3: *Building The New Metropolis***

Profiles stories from around the country of communities taking action to build more just and sustainable communities. Clips include: Gary Indiana, Denver, Colorado, and the Bay Area, California.

This screening event of *The New Metropolis* is made possible in part through the support of the Ford and Surdna Foundations.

### **About the Director**

Andrea Torrice is an award-winning documentary and public television producer whose work spans a range of contemporary issues. Her latest production, *The New Metropolis*, explores the revitalization challenges and opportunities facing America's older, first suburbs. Currently airing on public television, she is also overseeing the related civic engagement dialogues being hosted by PBS affiliated stations.

Her PBS documentary, *Rising Waters*, which examines the global warming debate through the personal stories of Pacific Islanders, was featured at the 2004 United Nations' Earth Summit, as well as broadcast in 110 countries and on National Geographic TV. She was the segment producer for *Election Day* (Ohio segment), which explored the 2004 election and aired on PBS's P.O.V. Some of her films include: *Bad Chemistry*, which discloses the hazards of low-level chemical exposures on human health; *Large Dams, False Promises*, which investigates the impacts of dam projects in Brazil and China; and *Forsaken Cries: The Story of Rwanda*, which delves into the historical factors contributing to the 1994 genocide. Winner of many festival awards for her programs, she is also the recipient of a Corporation for Public Broadcasting Gold Award for Community Programming.

Torrice is a frequent guest speaker on the issues related to her films, including global warming, sustainability, and urban revitalization. She is the owner of Torrice Productions, and has produced a range of award-winning video programs for museums, universities, educational institutions, municipal governments and nonprofit organizations.

Her career started almost 20 years ago at San Francisco's PBS affiliate, KQED-TV, as a producer for the station's Current and Cultural Affairs departments. She currently works in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she lives with her husband and son.

#### **About the City of El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee**

The City of El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee (or EQC) is a Council-appointed body of residents and business community representatives who work to involve the community directly in understanding and reducing the impact on the environment caused by residential, business and municipal activities. The EQC coordinates a variety of events to educate and involve residents in City environmental programs and activities, including the Eco-Film series. This event is part of the Environmental Quality Committee's Eco-Film series. The Eco-Film series was developed to educate, inspire and encourage community participation in a wide range of environmental quality and sustainability issues. More information about the Environmental Quality Committee is available online at [www.el-cerrito.org/eqc](http://www.el-cerrito.org/eqc)

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