



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ABAG Executive Board

November 17, 2022

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022:

BayREN Update

This month, the **BayREN Resilient Libraries Network** will launch a network of energy-efficient and resilient local libraries that can also function as Community Resilience Centers to deliver resources before, during or after natural hazard-related events. Six Bay Area libraries were selected to participate: Fairfax Library, East Palo Alto Library, Biblioteca Latinoamericana Library in San José, West Oakland Library, 81st Avenue Branch Library in Oakland, and the Novato Branch Library. Participating libraries will receive free engineering technical assistance and recommendations to identify energy upgrades needed to improve the buildings efficiency, resilience, and ability to provide cooling and clean air. The pilot will conclude at the end of 2023.

Housing updates

BAHFA's Doorway pilot got a boost this month when Google donated several coders through a fellowship program to help us build the Doorway platform (which connects residents with affordable housing opportunities throughout the Bay Area.) This is great news in that it provides much needed resources to move this pilot forward.

In the **Regional Housing Technical Assistance Program**, MTC and ABAG are tracking submissions of Bay Area draft Housing Elements, as well as corresponding HCD comments. At the start of October, over half of the 109 jurisdictions in the region have submitted drafts of their Housing Elements to HCD.

On November 15 from 2-3:30 pm, MTC-ABAG hosted a [New State Housing Laws webinar](#) with attorneys from Goldfarb & Lipman LLP to discuss the most significant changes in legislation regarding California's housing laws and what it means for jurisdictions.

Time Running Out to Claim Local Housing Grants: In 2021, ABAG allocated [funding for all 109 jurisdictions](#) in the Bay Area to support development of local Housing Elements and other housing-related planning. Some jurisdictions have yet to claim their funds, and time is running out given a statutory expenditure deadline. Local staff who have not yet claimed their funds should contact MTC-ABAG staff immediately via HousingTA@bayareametro.gov.

This month, MTC staff received approval to apply for nearly \$103 million in formula-based state funding through **Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021** ([REAP 2.0 program](#)). In line with program guidelines, these funds will support a variety of regional programs that advance infill development, reduce VMT, and affirmatively further fair housing. The staff recommendation includes funding for Transit Transformation Action Plan Implementation (\$31.6 million), a Priority Sites Pilot (\$28 million), a Housing Preservation Pilot (\$15 million), an extension of the Regional Housing Technical Assistance Program (\$15 million), and Community Choice Initiatives (\$8 million).

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Item to note

ABAG mourns the passing of former Executive Director **Ezra Rapport**, who served as ABAG Executive Director from 2010 to 2016 and as Deputy Executive Director from 2008 to 2010. Rapport died October 6 at his Oakland home after an 11-year battle with cancer. He was 69 years old.

On October 19th, MTC and ABAG held a [Metro Talks: Access for All webinar](#). Participants, including MTC Commissioner Dorene Giacomini, discussed why equity requires that public agencies design for people who face the biggest barriers to access and why that work makes for a better system for everyone.



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