



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ABAG Executive Board

January 21, 2021

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY 2021:

RFQs: Regional Planning Bench and On-Call Equity Consultant Bench

MTC and ABAG have posted two RFQs to build regional consultant benches that can support local jurisdictions and other public agencies with procurements.

On-Call Equity Bench

MTC released an RFQ for an Equity Consultant Bench on December 28th, 2020, which includes service categories related to internal operations, policy, community engagement, innovation and environmental justice. The deadline for submission to the Equity Bench is February 2nd, 2021. More details can be found on Bonfire at <https://mtc.bonfirehub.com/opportunities/24570>.

Regional Planning Bench

MTC and ABAG have also released an RFQ for a Regional Planning Bench, which includes 11 service categories for a wide range of planning needs including comprehensive planning, community engagement, housing and transportation. This bench will be available to simplify contract administration for funds received through the Regional Early Action Planning grants (REAP) and Priority Development Area (PDA) planning grants. The RFQ also includes a unique opportunity for early-career planners who do not have enough experience to qualify on their own; they can submit a "Statement of Experience and Interest" form so that qualified firms looking to expand their teams can consider them. We hope that this will further our Equity Platform and help to address a shortage of planners during this busy Housing Element cycle. The deadline for submissions is February 18. More details can be found on Bonfire at <https://mtc.bonfirehub.com/opportunities/35148>.

Housing Technical Assistance Opportunities

ABAG and MTC have released a Call for Letters of Interest for Technical Assistance and Planning Grants to support local Housing Elements as well as PDAs. The solicitation combines the REAP grants and PDA program to streamline the application process and maximize roughly \$12 million in available funding. Every jurisdiction in the Bay Area is entitled to non-competitive funding to support Housing Elements, and jurisdictions with locally nominated PDAs are eligible to apply for competitive planning and technical assistance grants. More information is available on the ABAG and MTC websites, including the online application, a detailed guidance document, and recordings of webinars to assist jurisdictions with the application process. The application deadline is February 12. More information can be found on the ABAG Housing Technical Assistance Program webpage at <https://abag.ca.gov/housing-technical-assistance-program>.

San Francisco Estuary Partnership

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership has passed their US EPA 5-year program evaluation, maintaining their eligibility for federal funding through the National Estuary Program. The Estuary Partnership received a slight increase in their FY21 appropriation in the recently signed Omnibus Appropriations Bill. The spending bill also included a 50% increase for the San Francisco Water Quality Improvement Fund, a competitive grant program run through US EPA which funds projects that implement the Estuary Partnership's Estuary Blueprint. Finally, on January 14th the President signed HR 4044, the Protect and Restore America's Estuaries Act, reauthorizing the National Estuary Program for five years with nearly double the authorized funding amount.

BayREN

BayREN was able to continue implementing our energy efficiency portfolio, and either met or exceeded our program goals. We paid close to \$7.5 million in rebates to single and multifamily residents and owners; we provided additional training to our workforce regarding health and safety; and we saw a threefold increase in our building department and real estate trainings, with a much greater diversity of jurisdiction participation. Our building electrification efforts also saw significant success in 2020, and our work with the 7 Community Choice Aggregators – particularly in this area – is strong.

Items to Note

- The City of Sebastopol – by unanimous consent – became the first jurisdiction to join the BayREN Water Upgrades \$ave program, a unique water and energy savings program. Loan capital for this program was provided through the line of credit extended by MTC to ABAG. Given the drought facing the state, this program is poised for significant growth.



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