



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Association of Bay Area Governments

July 18, 2024

Updates

\$20 Billion Bay Area Affordable Housing Bond Approved for November 2024 Election

- On June 26, the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) Board took the final vote to place a \$20 billion affordable housing bond on the November 2024 ballot in all nine Bay Area counties. The Board also unanimously approved the BAHFA Business Plan and the Regional Expenditure Plan for how BAHFA will prioritize the 20 percent of bond funds that it is responsible for if the measure is approved by voters. More information about the regional housing bond is available in this [Bond Report](#).

Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint Performance & Equity Outcomes

- This month, ABAG and MTC released the [performance and equity outcomes](#) of the [Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint](#), illustrating how the "first draft" of the Bay Area's long-range plan will advance critical regional goals for an affordable, connected, diverse, healthy and vibrant Bay Area for all residents. Like past plans, the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint demonstrates significant progress on key affordability, environmental and economic recovery goals as well as focusing projected household and jobs growth in a sustainable manner.

San Francisco Estuary Partnership Receives \$10.6 Million from EPA

- In late June and early July, the Estuary Partnership received two awards from EPA totaling \$10.6 million to implement watershed-scale restoration in North Richmond and advance nature-based adaptation along the Hayward shoreline.

ABAG General Assembly Convenes at Oakland Museum of California

- On Friday, June 21, a quorum of the ABAG General Assembly comprised of local elected officials from the Bay Area's nine counties and 101 member cities convened to pass the 2024-2025 ABAG budget. Delegates attended the meeting in person at the Oakland Museum of California. The business meeting was followed by the conference, *Resilience: Innovative Governance for Regional Challenges*.

Washington, D.C., Advocacy Trip, May 14-16

- I joined ABAG President Ramos and Vice President Arreguin as well as MTC Commissioners Canepa and Dutra-Vernaci in Washington, D.C., in May for MTC-ABAG's annual advocacy trip. There we met with members of the California congressional delegation and officials at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and at the U.S. Department of Transportation to discuss ABAG and MTC housing and transportation priorities.

Bay Area Needs \$9.7 Billion to 'Unlock' 40,000 Affordable Homes in the Pipeline

- The Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) and Enterprise Community Partners in May released the [Bay Area Affordable Housing Pipeline 2024 Report](#), which analyzes affordable housing projects in various stages of predevelopment and identifies solutions for moving them toward completion. The updated research reveals there are now 433 projects in various stages of predevelopment that would create more than 40,896 affordable homes across the nine-county Bay Area. These would account for nearly a quarter of the 180,000 affordable homes the state's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan determined are needed in the Bay Area by 2031.

State Resource Agency Approves Plan for North Bay Habitat and Species Conservation

- The California Department of Fish and Wildlife in May approved the [North Bay Baylands Regional Conservation Investment Strategy](#) produced by MTC, Caltrans, the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, the Sonoma County Transportation Authority and other organizations with support from scientists and members of the public. The new strategy outlines a comprehensive plan for protecting sensitive tidal marsh, freshwater marsh and upland areas that provide critical wildlife habitat across portions of Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano counties. These include shoreline areas along San Pablo Bay as well as historic baylands, where sea level rise is expected to substantially alter the ecological landscape over the coming decades. The strategy is designed to help guide planning for major infrastructure projects such as the long-term transformation of State Route 37.

Bay Area Summer Academy Kicked off July 8

- Over 200 high school students are participating in the Norman Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy paid internship program hosted by ABAG, MTC, BCDC and the Air District. The program kicked off on July 8, 2024, and over the course of four subsequent weeks, students will learn how regional agencies address complex issues like environmental justice, housing and transportation equity, community health, and social justice.

Looking Ahead

Plan Bay Area 2050+ Engagement: Late Summer/Early Fall 2024

- Beginning in August, MTC and ABAG will conduct a series of public engagement activities at events and community spaces in cities across the Bay Area, focusing on:
 - Sharing both the Draft Blueprint outcomes and the Transit 2050+ Draft Network
 - Gathering feedback to inform the development of the Final Blueprint and address identified Draft Blueprint challenges
 - Identifying early priorities for implementing Plan Bay Area 2050+

Following an analysis of public input, the ABAG Executive Board and the Commission are anticipated to consider approval of the Final Blueprint in late 2024.



for Andrew Fremier
Executive Director