

**ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

RESOLUTION NO. 11-19

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR CYNTHIA ANNE KROLL UPON HER
RETIREMENT FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS AFTER
SIX YEARS OF SERVICE**

WHEREAS, Cynthia Kroll, PhD, is retiring after six years of outstanding service to the Association of Bay Area Governments, most recently as the Association's Chief Economist, and after more than three decades of public service overall; and

WHEREAS, starting at ABAG in 2013 as Research Director in charge of regional forecasting and analysis efforts, Cynthia brought to ABAG from the University of California at Berkeley and other previous employers her strong analytic skills and experience with regional policy questions, strengthening the agency's capacity to do regional analysis and to support planning activities with careful, specific hiring; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia and the colleagues with whom she collaborated on the 1981 paper, Bay Area Office Growth, Working Papers on the Region's Economy, No. 1, anticipated many of the job/housing issues ABAG continues to address, concluding that "Planning for development at the local levels should recognize patterns of transportation facilities and services outside local boundaries," and that "the Bay Area's high and rapidly rising cost of housing places severe hardship on existing residents who are not already in the homeownership market, and serves as a disincentive to continuing office and industrial growth;" and

WHEREAS, Cynthia's ability to truly teach and explain the complex language of forecasting, allowed staff colleagues and Executive Board members alike to understand regional analysis without ever being made to feel ignorant; and

WHEREAS, among the bon mots favored by Cynthia are the observation that, "A forecast is like driving blindfolded, while directed by someone else looking through the rear window," and "An economist is an expert who will know tomorrow why the things she predicted yesterday didn't happen today."

WHEREAS, Cynthia's facility with humor put us all at ease and fostered the Executive Board's appreciation of the quality and caliber of her work, which is presumed to have also favorably influenced members' view of work done by other agency staff; and

**ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION NO. 11-19**

WHEREAS, this talent has been appreciated not only among the ABAG members and staff but also by Cynthia's students in the classrooms at UC Berkeley's Fisher Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics and in the university's City and Regional Planning Department, as well as by students at Southwest University for Finance and Economics in China; and

WHEREAS, one of Cynthia's earliest jobs before her 2013 return as a forecaster, economist and economic development specialist was a 1980-81 stint as an ABAG regional planner, where she labored in the basement of the Claremont Hotel; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia continued to pursue regional interests after climbing out of the hotel basement, with some 30 years of research at UC's Fisher Center that included examining the financial impacts of earthquakes as well as the energy implications and other effects of transit-oriented development on the affordable housing market; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia's expertise provided a foundation for approval of the Bay Area's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, and her work on Bay Area economic development also has included service on the boards of the Bay Area Economic Institute and the East Bay Forecast Advisory Team, among others; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia's plans to continue dabbling in economic development may make her retirement, however well-deserved, too busy to spend more time with her family or to take those oft-postponed trips; and

WHEREAS, Cynthia may still convince her husband to retire with her, perhaps enabling the two of them to return to China and allow her to use those Mandarin lessons; now therefore be it

**ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION NO. 11-19**

RESOLVED, on behalf of ABAG, that the Executive Board and the entire staff congratulate Cynthia on her retirement, extend to her their warmest appreciation for her myriad contributions to the agency and to the Bay Area during her career at UC Berkeley as well as with ABAG and MTC, and invite her to come full circle by returning to this forum at any time to provide us all with a little perspective on the region.

The foregoing was adopted by the Executive Board this 19th of September, 2019.

David Rabbitt
President

Certification of Executive Board Approval

I, the undersigned, the appointed and qualified Clerk of the Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments (Association), do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Executive Board of the Association at a duly called meeting held on the 19th day of September, 2019.

Frederick Castro
Clerk of the Board