



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ABAG Executive Board

May 21, 2020

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY/JUNE:

General Assembly

The virtual GA is June 11 at 11 a.m. The agenda and registration are now available on the ABAG website. We need a quorum for this event to pass the Budget and Work Plan for the next fiscal year.

Housing

- The fifth Housing Methodology Committee meeting went well over Zoom on May 14 (a longer presentation on RHNA will be part of this Board meeting).
- We're tracking housing-related legislation, and we've written and posted a news story about emergency protections for tenants at the federal, state and local levels on both the ABAG and MTC sites.
- We've sent a letter to HCD on the importance of state LEAP and REAP money for housing.

Virtual Meeting Attendance

Anecdotally, attendance at ABAG and MTC virtual meetings is up. For some individuals, by not having the challenges of navigating the various transportation systems, this remote environment means they can be more directly involved with our public meetings. We are checking on the exact numbers with IT and once received can report.

San Francisco Estuary Partnership

On April 22nd, Earth Day, NBC Bay Area ran a 2-minute TV news story about SFEP's *San Pablo Avenue Green Stormwater Spine Project*. This project was funded by the Bay Area Toll Authority with assistance from MTC Operation's group as it relates to Bay Bridge mitigation efforts. This is a great example of an on-going cross cutting project serving as a model for cities around the bay.

The link will be provided in my report for anyone to access.

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/stories-by-joe-rosato-jr/east-bays-new-rain-gardens-an-old-school-pollution-control/2277753/>

State Budget Update

The May Revise of the FY 2020-21 State Budget was released on May 14. While the situation is dire for the General Fund and its primary programs, such as education and health care, the Administration's cost cutting measures generally spare transportation and housing from deep cuts. The May Revise retains a \$500 million low-income housing tax credit expansion proposal and local

and regional housing planning funding – the Local Early Action Program and the Regional Early Action Program – but does reduce funding in a number of other housing programs where funds have not yet been allocated to specific projects. In transportation, the Administration forecasts that State Transit Assistance, a source of transit operating funds, will be down by 40% resulting in a \$100 million hit to the Bay Area. On a positive note, related to local government funding, Governor Newsom is proposing to direct \$1.7 billion in CARES Act funds that went directly to the state to local governments, including \$450 million to the cities that did not receive a direct allocation from CARES Act and \$1.3 billion to counties to be used toward homelessness, public health, public safety and other services to combat the pandemic. For details see the Attachments to my report.

Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) ACT

On May 15, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a \$3 trillion COVID-19 relief package—the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act (H.R. 6800)—to supplement the nearly \$3 trillion in aid Congress has approved since March. The HEROES Act would fund \$875 billion in state and local government direct aid as a supplement to the \$150 billion in direct aid approved in March, and provide an additional \$10 billion to cities and counties through Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The bill would also make a substantial investment to keep residents in their homes, providing \$100 billion in emergency rental assistance, nearly \$20 billion in homelessness and traditional U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rental assistance, and \$75 billion to assist homeowners in paying housing costs. With respect to transportation, the bill would provide an additional \$15.75 billion in transit funding plus \$15 billion in resources to states and locals to backfill lost highway funding.

More detail will be provided in the June Leg Report including any updates on Senate action on this item.

Equity Program Update

We are moving forward with developing a bench of equity experts who can partner with our agency in the coming months and years as we assess, design, and implement an effective equity platform. Now more than ever, we as an agency recognize that engaging with community-based organizations and thought partners who assist agencies like MTC and ABAG with applying an equity lens will be invaluable as we transition into a Covid-19 recovery phase.

Plan Bay Area Public Engagement

A special "Coffee Conversation" virtual event on the topic of climate change, with Kanyon Sayers-Roods, the Co-founder & CEO of tribal outreach consultants Kanyon Consulting LLC, and our very own Rachael Hartofelis, will take place on May 21 (same day as ABAG EB meeting).

The next ABAG Executive Board meeting is scheduled for May 27th (special meeting)


Therese W. McMillan