



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ABAG Executive Board

June 18, 2020

Retirements

No updates

Departures

No updates

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY/JUNE:

Response to Protests and Social Unrest

In response to the violent deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, ABAG and MTC leadership released a joint statement acknowledging the systemic injustice that their deaths illuminate in our society. The President of ABAG and the Chair of MTC have both committed to advance equity, justice and inclusion within our agencies and lift up those voices in our region who have historically been silenced or not included at the table. I invite everyone to read the statement. It is included on the ABAG and MTC websites.

<https://abag.ca.gov/news/abag-mtc-leaders-issue-statement-supporting-social-justice-activism>

General Assembly

The General Assembly was held on June 11th. The first item on the agenda for a vote was the Budget and Work Plan for the next fiscal year. Staff is mindful that the entire region is facing a challenging economic future. However, we also want to highlight that the staff of MTC, serving ABAG under the Contract for Services, provides expansive support for the many successful ABAG programs and initiatives that will be necessary to help ABAG's 101 member cities and nine counties deal with the enormous issues facing the region. President Arreguin committed to work with staff to look for ways to help struggling cities (e.g. dues payment plans), as well as ways to cut ABAG's budget without sacrificing critical programs. Finally, a bylaw change allowing the Executive Board to accept new grants throughout the year without having to call a Special General Assembly passed overwhelmingly. We appreciate how many of you recognize the value of ABAG's work and look forward to finding solutions to the challenges ahead.

Regional Housing Needs Determination (RHND) Issued by HCD

On June 10, 2020, ABAG received the proposed Cycle 6 RHND from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) staff, following a consultation process between ABAG and HCD staff this spring. The RHND as determined by HCD between 2022 and 2030 has been identified as 441,176 housing units. Agenda item 10.a. on the agenda today will provide more details on the RHND.

Housing Outreach to Local Jurisdiction Staff

On June 4, ABAG/MTC hosted a webinar for local staff that covered three important housing topics: (1) a report on the RHNA process, (2) an initial analysis of new Housing Element site selection requirements, and (3) an overview of a new regional housing technical assistance program funded by REAP. The webinar was designed as a training session for local staff to enable them to keep their councils and boards informed about these critical housing issues. In addition to the training webinar, ABAG/MTC staff developed a set of resources for local staff, including a template presentation for local staff to adapt for use with their policymakers and county-level maps and charts to enable subregional customization. Over 115 staff members from local jurisdictions participated in the webinar. ABAG/MTC has already received positive feedback from local staff about the timeliness and utility of the presentation and resource packet.

BAHFA

In coordination with actions before the Executive Board today, the first meeting of the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) will be convened following the June 24th Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Meeting. The launch of this joint venture between ABAG and MTC is an important new tool that will be available to help implement the Expanded Regional Housing Portfolio you will be discussing under agenda item 7b.

Things of Note

I had the pleasure of moderating the inaugural Metro Talks forum on 6/3 via webinar, highlighting equitable housing and featuring Conor Dougherty, Economics reporter for The New York Times; Lorena Melgarejo, Executive Director of Faith in Action; and Steven Falk, Former Interim Oakland City Administrator and Lafayette City Manager. We received very positive feedback from the survey of over 160 participants; who suggested the following future topics:

- Inclusive Economy (62%)
- Future of Transit (60%)
- Racial Equity (51%)

On 6/8, Chronicle veteran reporter John King highlighted and celebrated the newest segment of Bay Trail in Albany, and KPIX Channel 5 aired a segment on the evening news about the new Bay Trail segment as well.

Upcoming Events

The ABAG Housing Methodology Committee is meeting this Friday, June 19th to discuss the RHNA Income Allocations. The meeting will be remote and the agenda and reference materials are posted on the ABAG website.

A Special General Assembly Webinar will be held on June 25th at 1:30 pm with a focus on Planning for the Bay Area's Future: Plan Bay Area 2050, Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), and Regional Early Action Planning (REAP).

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