



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Association of Bay Area Governments

March 21, 2024

Updates

Bay Area Housing Element Update

- January 31st marked a Housing Element milestone: Jurisdictions that were late in obtaining their certification from state regulators faced a rezoning deadline. The original deadline for local governments to complete Housing Element updates was over a year ago, on Jan. 31, 2023. Sixty-eight jurisdictions currently have certified Housing Elements, and another 10 are in “substantial compliance” with state law, together representing over 70% of the region. Twenty-three jurisdictions had to rezone by the Jan. 31, 2024, deadline. We are working with our local partners to determine if they met that deadline. A bright spot is that San Jose, the most populous city in the region and with the largest RHNA obligation, has obtained its certification and completed rezoning. Congratulations!

Bay Area Eviction & Legal Services Study

- BAHFA is funding a regional study to better understand evictions in the Bay Area, and in 2023 contracted with a research team led by Centro Legal de la Raza, the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project, and Alex Werth to conduct the project. BAHFA staff and members of the research team introduced the Bay Area Eviction and Legal Services Study at a Jan. 23, 2024, webinar. Nearly 100 tenant organizers, leaders, attorneys, advocates and local government staff who are involved in eviction prevention were in attendance.

Bay Area Caucus Meeting Feb. 7

- In February, Kate Hartley, Section Director for BAHFA, along with representatives from Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California, MidPen Housing and Enterprise Community Partners, presented an update on the proposed Bay Area affordable housing bond to the Bay Area Caucus at the invitation of Bay Area Caucus Chair Senator Josh Becker.

North Bay League of Cities Meeting Feb. 15

- ABAG Executive Board members David Rabbitt, Pat Eklund, Susan Hollingsworth Adams and Mary Sackett were in attendance for this meeting, at which I was joined by Brad Paul, Kate Hartley and Rebecca Long of the MTC-ABAG staff for a presentation and discussion of the proposed Bay Area affordable housing bond.

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Sacramento Advocacy Visits, March 11-12:

- I joined President Ramos, Vice President Arreguin, and ABAG Housing Chair Romero and several MTC Commissioners and staff in meetings with our Bay Area legislative delegation. The visits touched on three areas: 1) Protecting Regional Early Action Planning Program funds; 2) MTC's enabling legislation for a transportation revenue measure, SB1031 (Wiener/Wahab) Connect Bay Area; and 3) Update on the Bay Area Affordable Housing Bond.

PCA Grants Will Provide Up to \$8.5 Million for Bay Area Conservation Projects

- ABAG and MTC, in partnership with the State Coastal Conservancy, are offering up to \$8.5 million in grants ranging from \$200,000 to \$1 million in the latest cycle of [Priority Conservation Area \(PCA\) grants](#). The PCA program aims to preserve and enhance the natural, economic and social value of rural lands as the region's population continues to grow. Proposed projects must be within or connected to [an existing PCA](#), and should protect or enhance resource areas or habitats, provide or enhance bicycle and pedestrian access to open space and parkland resources, support the Bay Area's agricultural economy, or provide urban greening. Applications are due by Wed., May 8, 2024.

State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference Cancelled

- The San Francisco Estuary Partnership had to cancel its State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference at the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center in Oakland due to the conference venue not being ready on March 12-13, which were the dates of the Conference this year. More information will be made available in the coming days.

MTC Pathway to Government College Mentorship Program

- Bay Area college and university students are encouraged to apply to [the Pathway to Government College Mentorship Program](#). This paid opportunity offers students professional work experience in transportation planning, finance and operational projects. The application deadline is March 27.

Bay Area Summer Academy Now Accepting Applications

- [Applications for the Norman Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy](#) now are being accepted through April 28. Please help the participating regional agencies—ABAG, MTC, BCDC and the Air District—spread the word by encouraging high schoolers in your communities to participate in this paid summer opportunity.

Looking Ahead

- ABAG General Assembly, Friday, June 21st at 10 a.m.

Andrew Fremier
Executive Director