

Association of Bay Area Governments

Executive Board

May 16, 2024

Agenda Item 6.f.

International Travel Request

Subject:

Approval of International Travel Request for ABAG President to Participate in the 2024 Social Housing Field Study in Vienna, Austria

Background:

The Global Policy Leadership Academy (GPLA) has invited MTC to participate in the upcoming Vienna Social Housing Field Study Trip from July 14 to July 20, 2024. Program participants will learn from and engage with GPLA key faculty and a variety of Viennese housing experts to gain firsthand knowledge about a proven model of social housing. Key topics include urban planning, construction, financing, land management, and community engagement. The exclusive curriculum will include daily lectures, symposia, gatherings, exhibits, and field trips.

Executive Director Andrew Fremier and Section Director, Legislative and Public Affairs, Rebecca Long were identified as staff for whom this study trip would be valuable because of their expertise and experience. In addition, the following MTC commissioners have been identified as participants in the 2024 Social Housing Field Study: MTC Chair Alfredo Pedroza, Commissioner Margaret Abe-Koga, and Commissioner Victoria Fleming.

Furthermore, ABAG President Belia Ramos has been identified to participate as a valued contributor in her role as a representative of the SF Bay Area:

During this program, the delegation will discuss:

1. The role of government in planning and funding social housing
2. The economics of the Vienna Social Housing Model including rents and incomes served
3. A comparison of affordable housing in the USA to the Vienna Social Housing Model
4. Urban planning and urban design
5. Creating permanent affordability for all Housing subsidies in Vienna
6. Creating a walkable and bikeable city

Registration costs include the educational programming, lodging, meals, and ground transportation. All registration will be coordinated by MTC and travel expenses for ABAG President Ramos will be covered by ABAG.

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Issues:

None


Recommended Action:

The ABAG Executive Board is requested to authorize ABAG President Belia Ramos for international travel as described above with full registration coordinated by MTC and associated travel costs covered by ABAG.

Attachments:

- A. Summary Approval

Reviewed:



Andrew Fremier