



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Association of Bay Area Governments

May 16, 2024

Updates

Introducing MTC-ABAG's Objective Design Standards Handbook for Multifamily Housing

- I'm excited to announce a new how-to manual for local governments hoping to create objective design standards. An April webinar introduced this new resource, which will help planners develop standards for multi-family residential and mixed-use projects. The webinar video and slides, as well as the handbook and related materials, [are available on the ABAG website](#).

Priority Sites: Affordable Housing Predevelopment Loan and Technical Assistance Awards

- MTC and BAHFA will consider inaugural funding awards for Priority Sites, which are locally identified, regionally significant sites that will offer homes to people of all income levels. These sites are near essential services, green space and frequent public transit. The [first set of 211 Priority Sites](#) was approved by MTC and ABAG in November 2023. More information about the Priority Sites Program [is available on the MTC website](#).

ABAG POWER Expands Its Membership to School Districts

- ABAG Publicly Owned Energy Resources (POWER) aggregates the natural gas needs of nearly 40 participating public agencies, and now, thanks to a recent proposal, over 20 school districts will also consider participating. Increasing POWER's membership will help build greater financial reserves, cost efficiencies and purchasing power. To be eligible for ABAG POWER, an organization must be either a member or cooperating (i.e., non-voting) member of ABAG. I have appointed 20 school districts within PG&E's service area as cooperating members of ABAG so that they can be eligible to participate in POWER: Ackerman Charter, Bellevue Union, Brentwood Union, Campbell Union, Ceres Unified, Colusa Unified, Escalon Unified, Fremont Unified, Jefferson Elementary, Linden Unified, Placer County Office of Education, Red Bluff Joint Union, Riverbank, Santa Clara Unified, Santa Cruz City Schools, Turlock Unified, Washington Unified, Williams Unified and Yolo County Office of Education.

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Housing Element Compliance

- Bay Area local governments continue to work towards approval of their Housing Elements from state regulators. Seventy-seven jurisdictions have received certification of their Housing Elements, and another two are in “substantial compliance” with state law, together representing 72% of the region. The state has applied increased scrutiny to local efforts to implement Housing Elements, resulting in two Bay Area jurisdictions losing their certifications in recent months. Overall, the region continues to trend towards higher rates of compliance.

Looking Ahead

State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference Re-scheduled

- The State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference has been re-scheduled for May 28-29 at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center. The event was cancelled in March because the previous venue was not ready. More information: <https://www.sfestuary.org/>

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Fremier".

Andrew Fremier
Executive Director