

Meeting Notes from Housing Legislative Working Group Meeting

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Date: Friday, April 5, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Yerba Buena Room, Bay Area Metro Center

Staffing:

Julie Pierce, Chair
Jake Mackenzie, Vice Chair
Therese McMillan, Executive Director
Adrienne Weil, General Counsel
Alix Bockelman, Deputy Executive Director
Brad Paul, Deputy Executive Director
Rebecca Long, Government Relations Manager
Fred Castro, ABAG Clerk of the Board
Notetaking by: Lily Rockholt, Civic Edge Consulting

Attendance: Approximately 53 (inclusive of working group members) in person, one working group member and one community member on the phone



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Chair Julie Pierce: Welcomed working group members and provided overview of process for the coming month. Noted that the working group has been created to show the diversity of opinions that exist throughout the Bay Area region. To that end, comments will be given directly to the Legislative Subcommittee. She further explained that “we will forward all of the ideas brought forward in the working group sessions – we will not be taking votes. A vote says there is one opinion – we want to share *all* of the opinions that we hear in these meetings.”

There’s an expectation that working group members will gather feedback from colleagues and members of their community to share at the meetings.

Contra Costa County representatives

- Flagged that the cities of Contra Costa have submitted a joint letter evaluating a number of housing bills currently under consideration. Jobs/housing balance is a particular concern for the county and the region.
- Believes housing is a regional issue.

Solano County representatives

- Prioritize job/housing balance. Noted that there are few rewards currently for the cities and counties making a real contribution towards affordable housing. Believes Suisun residents want more housing, but the costs and competitive nature of the Bay Area labor market makes this challenging. Requests more financial help as part of the regional or statewide solution. Has questions about using the government-owned lands for housing.
- A major concern is return to source funding.

San Francisco County representatives

- Served on the CASA Technical Committee. Interested in seeing parts of CASA compact become part of the solution.
- Has been working on an analysis of bills for San Francisco and wants to work towards a regional solution.

Alameda County representatives

- Would like more recognition for what is being done correctly, especially as one of the Bay’s largest cities. Fremont has made strides in transit-oriented development. Would like to continue to focus on workforce development, including apprenticeship programs.
- The City of Alameda is an island community and transit is imperative, especially water transit. Acknowledged that solutions to the housing crisis must be regional.

San Mateo County representatives

- Acknowledged that Brisbane has made major strides towards addressing the housing crisis. Recently they have revised the General Plan to allow for significant (2,500+) additional housing units. Retaining local land use authority was crucial for the Brisbane locals to feel good about making these big changes.

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- Burlingame has made major strides in addressing the housing crisis in recent years and will have increased housing units by approximately 20 percent in the next five to ten years. Would like more acknowledgement and support for the housing advances San Mateo County has made and speaker supports local control.
- Levied sales tax to build affordable housing/farm labor housing in one speaker's district.

Napa County representatives

- Wants to find housing solutions to housing crisis in Napa while retaining local control. Felt many voices were left out of the CASA Compact process and would like to identify solutions that will work in Napa county.
- Small cities have had many challenges with building affordable housing. Napa is losing its middle class, and we want to start looking for solutions.

Marin County representatives

- There are mostly single-family housing Marin's jurisdictions. Interested in creative housing solutions such as accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and junior accessory dwelling units (JADUs) and not having to pay for utility hookup fees for the ADUs and JADUs within existing homes.
- Does not want the housing bills to be one size fits all, advocates for creative affordable housing. Emphasizes ADUs and Junior ADUs and using them to meet the RHNA requirements with low and very low-income housing.
- Hopes any legislation will better address the constraints faced by small cities and help to maximize housing production. Hopes for better metrics to analyze the impacts of the proposed legislation. Interested in transactions of properties through school districts. Most interested in measures to fast track ADUs and Junior ADUs.

Brad Paul and Rebecca Long provided a summary of the what staff has heard during CASA Outreach to date and Executive Director Therese McMillian presented proposed Organizing Principles for Reviewing Housing Legislation:

1. Funding: Does bill provide more funding to address housing crisis?
2. Production: Does bill propose policy changes that help increase production?
3. Protection: Does bill propose ways to reduce displacement?
4. Flexibility: Our communities are unique. Does bill account for these differences?
5. Jobs/Housing Balance: Does bill help reduce jobs/housing imbalances across region?
6. Reward Best Practices: Does bill recognize prior successful local actions?
7. Financial Impact: What are bills financial impacts on jurisdictions and taxpayers?
8. Transportation and Infrastructure Impacts: This was clarified as being inclusive of schools, sewers, and anything else related to physical capacity of a municipality.

Overall the working group was supportive of the eight organizing principles. The notes below indicate requests for further clarifications and additions.

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San Francisco County representatives

- Suggested an additional category relating to how the bill impacts GHG reductions.
 - **Therese McMillan:** This concern came up in other conversations. Especially in conversations where less housing is being built compared to the jobs.
 - **Vice Chair Jake Mackenzie:** Part of the action plan to implement PBA 2040, the Bay Area's Sustainable Communities plan, mandates GHG reduction by state law.
- San Francisco priorities include actually building housing – not just improving capacity.

San Mateo County representatives

- Would like to add a metric evaluating (and encouraging) a greater contribution from the business sector. Large corporations should be helping more with the housing crisis given that the jobs they've created in recent years are a major driver of housing demand.
 - **Chair Pierce:** Suggested this might fit under Funding and Jobs/Housing Balance metrics
- Suggested evaluating barriers to implementation and unintended consequences of bills.
- Concerns about the financial aspects of these bills, the potential for gross payroll taxes and the impact on San Mateo County.

Alameda County representatives

- Suggested that sustainability in infrastructure be identified.
 - Look for ways to attract jobs to East Bay to reduce commuting/GHG and increase equity.

Contra Costa representative

- Would like to see an organizing principle added to acknowledge the linkage to the state's greenhouse gas emission targets since where housing is built ties in directly to this.

Marin County representatives

- Wanted to highlight safety – namely where housing should be built relative to sea level rise and fire threats.
 - **Chair Pierce:** Suggested this could fit under a Climate Change/Resiliency principle.

Solano County representatives

- Return to source consideration is important for Solano County, so that the county can leverage the funding in the most productive way. Solano can produce affordable housing for significantly less than other parts of the region.

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Other Comments

McMillan: Requested any additional feedback on the Transportation and Infrastructure organizing principle.

- **Chair Pierce:** Suggested that ground water and/or other water considerations be considered as a metric.

Report on Housing Bill Landscape

Rebecca Long reviewed a number of bills and requested feedback. Also, asked if there are bills that should be added to the list. Noted she will add a map of sensitive communities to the website as well as a relevant study conducted by the UC Berkeley Turner Center.

Solano County representatives

- Requested clarity on use of “single-family unit” language. Wants to make sure there is not a penalty for multi-generational families sharing a home.

San Mateo County representatives

- Requested time at future meetings to dig deep into key bills.
 - **Chair Pierce:** Noted that there will be a lot of “homework” for the people in this room to the degree that these are important bills.

Alameda County representatives

- A priority is discussing fee structures, how they will be paid, and what they will cover. Concern cities will need help paying for infrastructure associated with increased housing and that proposed fees are too high for cities to pay alone.

Marin County representatives

- Wants to prioritize discussion of SB50 now that it has been substantially amended.

Chair Pierce: Asked if the sample matrix evaluating bills by the various organizing principles appeared to be a viable way to evaluate their contents and requested feedback on how to prioritize the bills themselves. Feedback included instructing staff to select order based on the most influential bills under each of the three Ps (protection, production, and preservation).

Discussion of Future Meeting Agendas

Santa Clara County

- Santa Clara working group members expressed frustration that they will not be ratified in advance of the next meeting on Thursday, April 11.

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Public Comment:

- 1. Contra Costa County representative** (Commented during public comment because he is not yet ratified): The letter written by Contra Costa cities identifies bills that are not included in this matrix. Requested staff review the letter and add bills as appropriate. Further identified impact fees as a top concern for Contra Costa. Finally, wants an organizing principle related to local control.
- 2. Ken Bukowski:** Concerns about how affordable housing will be funded. Would like to see the working group evaluate bills related to streamlining approvals for homeless shelters, parking requirements, and traffic. Suggested live broadcasting the meetings to expand their reach.
- 3. Anna Crisante:** Expressed frustration at lack of racial, housing, and age diversity that she observed among working group members. Majority are property owners, no renters (correction one renter). Shared that she had taken time off work to attend meeting and requested they be held outside of regular business hours. Identified affordable housing in Marin as her top priority as well as protecting minorities in the Bay Area as a whole.
- 4. Jane Kramer:** There are community interests, and regional interests, and they may or may not coincide. You are going to have to uncover all the possibilities that are not yet spoken in your communities to come up with the best mesh of ideas.
- 5. Rich Hedges:** Identified as a housing advocate with a focus on job/housing balance. Applauded existing up zoning legislation.
- 6. Anita Enander,** Los Altos City Councilmember: We should clarify language like “high resource areas” and identify areas of ambiguity in the bills.
- 7. John McKay:** Morgan Hill City Councilmember: Wants to review existing legislation as well as new legislation, as it’s easier to update existing bills than create new legislation.
- 8. Jason Beses:** He said that he feels this working group is too little too late. Also expressed frustration that MTC is paying for a lobbyist.
- 9. Susan Kirsch,** founder of Livable California: Feels that the success of Silicon Valley is the root cause of the housing crisis.
- 10. Jordan Grimes,** co-leader of Peninsula for Everybody, a tenant protection advocacy group: Wanted to promote regional control of housing production and zoning.

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11. Emma Ishi, aide to Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson: Thank you to all the members here. It is important you go to your communities, and talk to your people to get their opinions. Also, on the steering committee for CASA. Thank you.

12. Veda Florez, member of MTC Public Advisory Committee from Marin county: Thanks for this opportunity. I'd like to talk about guiding principles, protections bills, and add a bullet point to talk to underserved communities. Statewide and regional representatives that speak to underserved communities. Viewed the list of the 3 Ps and there aren't many bills under protections, are we not focusing on them or do they not exist.