

Association of Bay Area Governments

Executive Board

September 19, 2019

Agenda Item 7.c.

Plan Bay Area 2050: Regional Growth Forecast Methodology

Subject: Adoption of Resolution No. 08-19 Adoption of Regional Growth Forecast Methodology for Regional Housing Control Total for Plan Bay Area 2050

Background: Staff has presented the approach, tools and assumptions underlying the Regional Growth Forecast of total jobs, population, and households for Plan Bay Area 2050 to the Regional Advisory Working Group (RAWG), the Policy Advisory Council, and the joint Planning and Administrative Committees in June and July of this year. ABAG has held a public comment period on the Regional Growth Forecast Methodology from July 19 to August 19 and has responded to comments and concerns. A public hearing will be held at the ABAG Executive Board meeting on September 19, 2019 to allow for further input on this topic. At that meeting staff will present the methods used for creating the Regional Growth Forecast, putting it in the broader context of the Plan Bay Area 2050 development process. Staff will summarize comments received and seek approval of the methodology from the Executive Board.

Issues: **What is the role of the Regional Forecast in Plan Bay Area 2050?**

Each version of Plan Bay Area (officially the Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy) has relied upon a Regional Growth Forecast estimating total levels of employment, population, and households across the nine-county region over the Plan lifespan for each income level. Further analysis of the Plan is conducted using a land use model (UrbanSim 2.0) to identify where growth will locate inside the region, and a transportation model (Travel Model 1.5) that will explore the travel patterns and transportation impacts generated by this growth.

What tools are used?

The Regional Growth Forecast makes use of the Bay Area Regional Economic Modeling Inc. (REMI) 2 model. Additional analysis of household, income and in-commute patterns are done using analytic techniques created in-house. Ultimately, the results inform and may be informed by UrbanSim 2.0 and Travel Model 1.5.

How are the underlying assumptions determined?

At the Regional Growth Forecast stage, the assumptions are

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mainly technical in nature using best practices for forecasting as determined by staff, a technical advisory committee of economic, demographic, real estate, and model experts, and a consultant from the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy. Economists and demographers from the California Department of Finance are also contacted. When we reach the stage of the local area forecast using UrbanSim 2.0, specific land use strategies and associated assumptions will be developed in consultation with our regional planners and local jurisdiction planners, while at the same time strategies will be vetted by the public and key stakeholders.

What is new for Plan Bay Area 2050?

There will be more attention to how the information provided by one model can inform other parts of the analysis, so that the Regional Growth Forecast of population, jobs and households takes into account the impacts of strategies for housing, economic development, and beyond. Furthermore, the Regional Growth Forecast will for the first time extend through the year 2050 – the horizon year for this planning cycle.

Next Steps:

Staff has made refinements to the methodology document and have responded to comments submitted during the public comment period. Staff remain available to address unanticipated concerns related to the proposed methodology.

Recommendation:

The Executive Board is requested to adopt Resolution No. 08-19 adopting of the Regional Growth Forecast Methodology for the Regional Housing Control Total for Plan Bay Area 2050.

Attachments:

- A. Plan Bay Area 2050: Regional Growth Forecast Methodology
- B. Summary of Comments Received, Staff Responses, and Other Revisions
- C. Presentation
- D. Resolution No. 08-19

Reviewed:



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