



May 5, 2020

MTC Commissioners and ABAG Executive Board
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale St
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear MTC Commissioners and ABAG Executive Board:

As elected officials, we know you are on the frontlines of responding to the COVID pandemic ensuring the safety and health of our Bay Area communities, especially our most vulnerable residents. On behalf of the Bay Area Housing for All (BAHA) leadership team, we want to thank all of you for the work you're doing.

As we discussed in our meeting on April 8, we recognize the path to the ballot may change in response to the COVID pandemic and accompanying economic uncertainty. As has been our approach throughout this process, the decisions we make in partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) will continue to be both data-driven and responsive to the needs of our region. We appreciate your leadership during this uncertain time.

This crisis, and our need to 'Shelter In Place' for the sake of our shared health and the world economy, only underscores the necessity for there to be sufficient and safe homes to do so.

Our region, using the authority and structure of BAHFA already created through AB 1487, can address the severe economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic while building a strong foundation for a lasting recovery. Immediately prior to the pandemic, California faced a shortage of 1.3 million affordable homes. As we respond to this crisis and plan for our long-term recovery, the guiding motivation of BAHA has become even more critical: it is essential for everyone to have a healthy, stable home. Therefore, the BAHA leadership team remains committed to working with MTC and ABAG in standing up BAHFA to provide the kind of regional coordination, technical assistance, and funding/financing for affordable housing -- both to meet the existing need and to play a role in our region's recovery. For example:

- BAHFA could receive and coordinate funds across the region, not just from a ballot measure, but also could directly receive and disburse funds from the state, federal stimulus, private funds, etc.;
- BAHFA could provide TA to jurisdictions who are trying to figure out how to use the new federal housing dollars coming to their jurisdictions; and
- BAHFA could be a direct lender/under-writer of affordable housing production and preservation deals, which could be especially beneficial to lower-capacity jurisdictions who were short staffed before this crisis and are now even more stretched for capacity.

We believe these steps can provide our region with the relief and resources needed to address the increase in homelessness and housing insecurity we're already seeing and will continue to see as a result of the COVID pandemic and economic fallout. There is a great opportunity to leverage the structure and authorities of BAHFA, as well as existing staff, to do this work. The first, and most foundational piece, of this work is to create a business plan for BAHFA. **We understand the financial constraints that accompany this new public health and economic crisis and the impact this will have on resources available to fund the work needed to launch a regional agency. We would like to extend the offer to engage in a partnership to ensure this critical work continues to move forward. We have identified \$100,000 in assistance.**

Please feel free to reach out to any of us with your questions and thoughts. Thank you all again for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Judith Bell, Chief Impact Officer, The San Francisco Foundation
Amie Fishman, Executive Director, Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California
Heather Hood, Vice President, Enterprise Community Partners, Northern California
Tomiquia Moss, Founder and Chief Executive, All Home

Cc: Therese McMillan, Executive Director, MTC
Rebecca Long, Government Relations Manager, MTC/ABAG
Randy Rentschler, Director of Legislation and Public Affairs, MTC/ABAG