

**ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

RESOLUTION NO. 19-2020

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR LAURA THOMPSON UPON HER DEPARTURE FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS AFTER 21 YEARS OF SERVICE

WHEREAS, Laura Thompson, is leaving after 21 years of outstanding service to the Association of Bay Area Governments, most recently as San Francisco Bay Trail Project Manager, and after nearly 25 years of public service overall; and

WHEREAS, Laura started at ABAG in 1999 as a Bay Trail planner, after previously working for the County of San Mateo, where she was a planner responsible for all aspects of coastal development projects and where her skills and abilities to work with all aspects of the job from site visits to Supervisors' Board presentations proved invaluable to the Bay Trail Project, both at ABAG and later at ABAG-MTC; and

WHEREAS, Laura coordinated working towards completion of the 500-mile San Francisco Bay Trail through strategic planning, financial management, staff supervision, partnership building and public outreach; and

WHEREAS, Laura has collaborated with elected officials, public agency staff, non-profit organizations and the public to encourage active transportation, connect people to the natural environment and create healthy communities in nine counties along the shoreline of San Francisco Bay; and

WHEREAS, Laura's successful tenure included the planning or study of 148 miles of the Bay Trail and the addition of 64 new miles of Bay Trail, providing visitors with new connections to different locations along the San Francisco Bay; and

WHEREAS, Laura's work included managing a \$7 million competitive grant program with over 20 active local government trail-design-and-construction contracts; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the new trail miles funded and then built by partners, the Bay Trail Project team under Laura's leadership also completed several significant support activities that made access to information and to the Trail itself easier, including multiple comprehensive reports; redesign of the Bay Trail Logo public signage, and the maps used by the public; and the all-important redesign of the Bay Trail website; and

WHEREAS, as the third-longest tenured ABAG and ABAG-MTC employee, Laura over the years built an effective team of Bay Trail planners and brought this team and others together as a family, making significant accomplishments feel less like work and more like fun; and

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WHEREAS, Laura may be leaving the Bay Trail and the Bay Area, she plans to continue working, moving literally to greener pastures as she transplants to Scotland to join her finance; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her planned wedding, Laura will get to enjoy 1,900 miles of well managed Scottish paths from the Borders to the Highlands, offering another excellent example of trail networks; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, on behalf of ABAG, that the Executive Board and the entire staff congratulate Laura on her retirement, extend to her their warmest appreciation for her contributions to the agency and to the Bay Area during her career with ABAG and MTC, and offer the Scottish blessing that she may find a safe journey home as she embarks on a new era of Caledonian adventure.

The foregoing was adopted by the Executive Board this 17th of September, 2020.

Jesse Arreguin
President

Certification of Executive Board Approval

I, the undersigned, the appointed and qualified Clerk of the Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments (Association), do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Executive Board of the Association at a duly called and noticed meeting held in San Francisco, California, and at other remote locations, on the 17th day of September, 2020.

Frederick Castro
Clerk of the Board