

# Association of Bay Area Governments

## Executive Board

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September 17, 2020

Agenda Item 7.c.

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### Senate Bill 146 (Beall): Outreach Requirements for Sustainable Communities Strategies

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**Subject:** Support position on SB 146 (Beall), which provides increased flexibility with regard to the outreach requirements for sustainable communities strategies applicable to Plan Bay Area 2050 for the San Francisco Bay Area region.

**Background:** SB 375 (Steinberg, 2008), which established the requirement for metropolitan areas to plan land-use and transportation investments in a manner that reduces reliance on single-occupant vehicles and supports the state's climate goals, is now over 12 years old. As a landmark piece of legislation with the potential to make profound changes across the state, it included robust outreach requirements, including at least three *in-person* workshops for counties with more than 500,000 people and at least one in-person workshop for counties with fewer than 500,000 people—resulting in a requirement for 21 workshops in the Bay Area.

For Plan Bay Area 2050, MTC/ABAG developed a three-phase outreach strategy, which included over three dozen informal outreach events in fall 2019, known as “pop ups,” held at farmer's markets, job fairs, libraries, and other community venues across the nine counties. We received over 3,000 comments from these pop-up workshops, which were held primarily in communities of concern.

The second round of Plan Bay Area 2050 public engagement began as the Bay Area confronted COVID-19 and the shelter-in-place requirements. To keep outreach on track, we quickly switched to virtual engagement, holding digital focus groups and workshops, as well as telephone town halls. In total, staff held 25 virtual events beginning in late spring, with the majority of events happening during the Draft Blueprint's public comment period from July 10, 2020 to August 10, 2020. When combined with other tools, including an online survey and a statistically-valid telephone poll, over 7,000 Bay Area residents participated.

SB 146 will ensure that MTC/ABAG's robust efforts to ensure Bay Area residents help to shape Plan Bay Area 2050 will satisfy the state's requirements even after shelter-in-place is lifted. While SB 146 is just a short-term fix to account for COVID-19, staff is hopeful that our digital engagement efforts to date and those planned for the duration of the plan will demonstrate the benefits of providing agencies with more flexibility about how to engage

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with the public and can be incorporated into a longer-term update of SB 375 in the future.

To demonstrate ABAG's support for SB 146 when it was introduced in mid-July after the Legislation Committee's meeting, the President of ABAG and the Chair of the ABAG Legislation Committee authorized staff to communicate a position of support to the Legislature. Consistent with ABAG Resolution No. 01-19, we are seeking the Executive Board's ratification of that support position on SB 146.

**Issues:**

None

**Recommended Action:**

The Executive Board is requested to adopt a support position on SB 146.

**Bill Positions:**

**Support:**

California Association of Councils of Governments  
Rails to Trails Conservancy

**Oppose:**

None

**Reviewed:**



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Therese W. McMillan