

ABAG BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAM

PROPOSED

FISCAL YEAR 2020-21



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



JESSE ARREGUIN

ABAG President
Mayor, City of Berkeley



BELIA RAMOS

ABAG Vice President
Supervisor, County of Napa

Dear ABAG Delegates,

ABAG's programs and services have supported local jurisdictions since 1961, providing a regional forum for discussion and working together on common problems. Throughout the past 60 years, housing has consistently ranked among the region's most urgent challenges. As we move toward recovery from COVID-19, we have both an opportunity and a responsibility to do more — together — to solve the Bay Area's chronic housing affordability problem.

The pandemic-fueled upheavals of the past year have made the Bay Area's housing shortage even more pressing. To help meet this crisis head-on, ABAG created a new Housing Committee in July 2020, partnering with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) on an Expanded Regional Housing Portfolio and launching the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA).

In addition, ABAG's established housing programs — the Regional Housing Needs Allocation and the Regional Housing Technical Assistance Program (Housing TA) — have been busy throughout 2020-2021. Following an extensive outreach effort to local jurisdictions, a Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) methodology was adopted in late 2020 by the Regional Planning Committee and the Executive Board. This is based on the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) 's allocation of 441,000 units which Bay Area cities, towns and counties must now plan for.

The Housing Methodology Committee met virtually from May to September 2020 to develop the draft distribution formula and methodology. Once approved by HCD, each Bay Area jurisdiction will then receive its share of the region's housing need and must update its general plan's housing element to accommodate the new numbers.

Key to implementing RHNA is providing the resources so that local governments can update their housing elements. When most government agencies are facing declining revenues, ABAG is leveraging \$23.9 million in state funds to launch the Housing TA Program, providing access to consultants, data, tools and technical assistance to help cities and counties complete this work. Assistance has already begun for local planners through a 10 part webinar training series on early housing element update activities. ABAG will also be providing additional direct financial assistance to cities, towns and counties.

Housing TA complements nearly \$50 million for housing planning that Bay Area jurisdictions received directly from the state.

ABAG's future work will not only focus on supporting the region's COVID-19 recovery but also charts a course for creating a more affordable, sustainable and resilient Bay Area. The next iteration of our regional long-range land use and transportation plan — Plan Bay Area 2050 — is well underway and slated for adoption later this year. Public engagement involved thousands of Bay Area residents, who provided feedback. The Executive Board and MTC approved a set of final Plan Bay Area Strategies and the associated Growth Geographies and Regional Growth Forecast in fall 2020, and the Final Plan Bay Area Blueprint was identified as the Preferred EIR Alternative by both agencies in January 2021, transitioning to the final phase: developing the Plan document, the EIR, and a near-term Implementation Plan.

The Estuary Partnership has continued work on programs that protect, enhance and restore the San Francisco Estuary while staffing the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. The Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) expanded its offerings, including a new on-bill water efficiency program to complement its popular zero-interest loans for multifamily and single family energy retrofits.

The San Francisco Bay Trail Project over the past year closed several major trail gaps and is on track to make this alternative active transportation route an accessible one for the entire Bay Area.

Our staff accomplished much in 2020-2021 and will contribute more in 2021-2022, detailed in the following pages of this document. We are all committed to creating a better Bay Area, supported by our Council of Governments. Our cooperative regional spirit brings us together to effectively address today's challenges and create a shared vision for tomorrow.

When we can once again gather in person, we will celebrate ABAG's 60 years of service to our region appropriately. I look forward to getting together with all of you then to celebrate ABAG's many accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Jesse Arreguin
ABAG President, Mayor of Berkeley



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THERESE W. MCMILLAN

Executive Director

KATHLEEN KANE

Secretary / Legal Counsel

Dear ABAG Delegates,

After more than a year, the continuing COVID-19 emergency underscores the importance of recovery as a key to our work to make the Bay Area a better, more equitable place for all our residents. As the executive director for ABAG, as well as for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), our work together includes the long-range joint ABAG-MTC Plan Bay Area 2050 planning initiative as well as ABAG's expanded work in housing planning, its efforts on the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and the assistance provided by the regional Housing Technical Assistance Program (HousingTA).

As we move toward the post-pandemic era, our biggest challenge will continue to be in meeting the Bay Area's housing needs. The Expanded Regional Housing Portfolio, including formation last year of the new Housing Committee and the Bay Area Regional Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA), illustrates our shared commitment to meeting this challenge. While BAHFA and ABAG opted not to place a regional housing finance measure on the 2020 ballot, staff continues to work with both public and private sector partners to attract new resources to address the "3 Ps" of housing: protecting current residents, preserving existing homes and producing more new homes.

Thanks to the Housing Methodology Committee, the sixth cycle of the RHNA process developed a formula and distribution methodology and ABAG expects to distribute the numbers to the cities, towns and counties by the end of FY 2021. The Planning Group's Housing TA will help jurisdictions implement RHNA via updates to the housing elements in their General Plan updates.

Plan Bay Area 2050 work is scheduled to wrap up this fall, with a task list that includes not just the final Plan document but an associated Environmental Impact Report and an Implementation Plan.

Advancing equity remains a top priority at ABAG and MTC. Many other Bay Area governments, agencies and communities also are leading with equity to implement a just recovery that addresses the roots of social injustice. This commitment to equity must also illuminate our collective efforts to meet other big challenges, including climate change. To help ABAG and MTC walk the talk, staff this year established an equity consultant bench, including trusted community groups and practitioners. The arrangement includes "cooperative use" language that allows cities, towns, counties and other ABAG-MTC partners to pick from dozens of vetted firms with the experience and lens to help them walk the equity talk as well.

More information on ABAG's programs and activities is included in this document and on abag.ca.gov. I look forward to discussing these and other items at our June General Assembly.

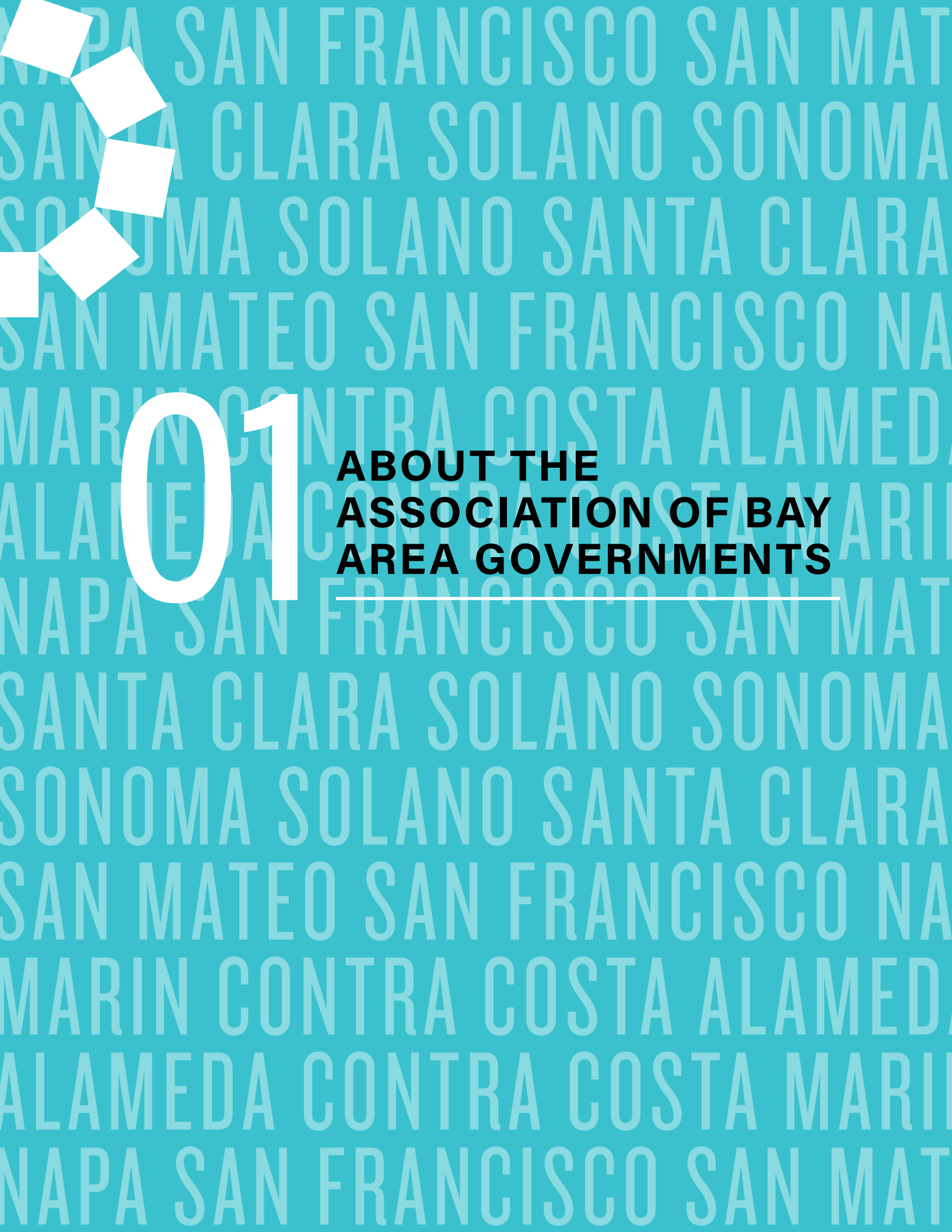
Sincerely,

Therese W. McMillan
Executive Director



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01

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS



ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

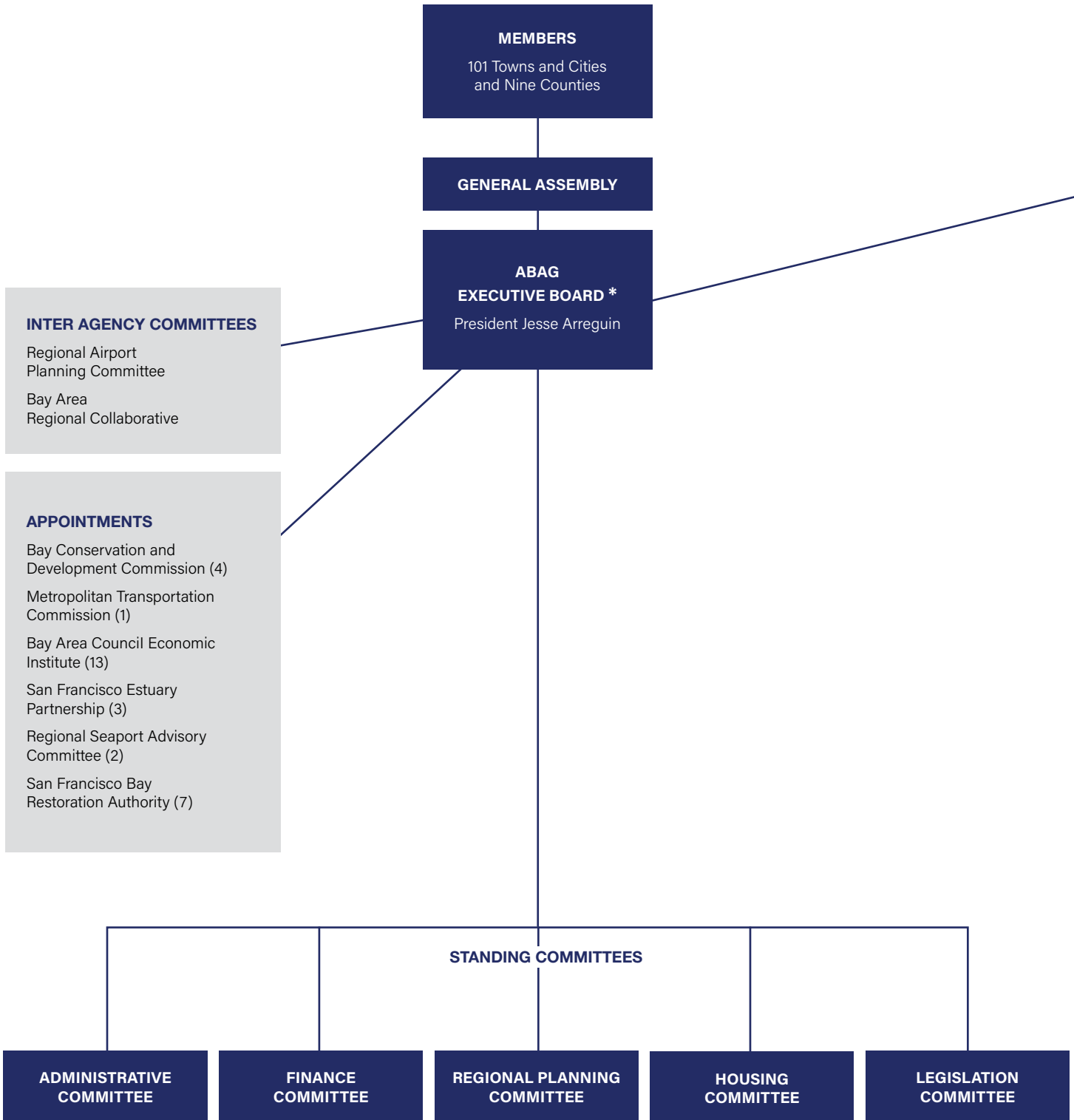
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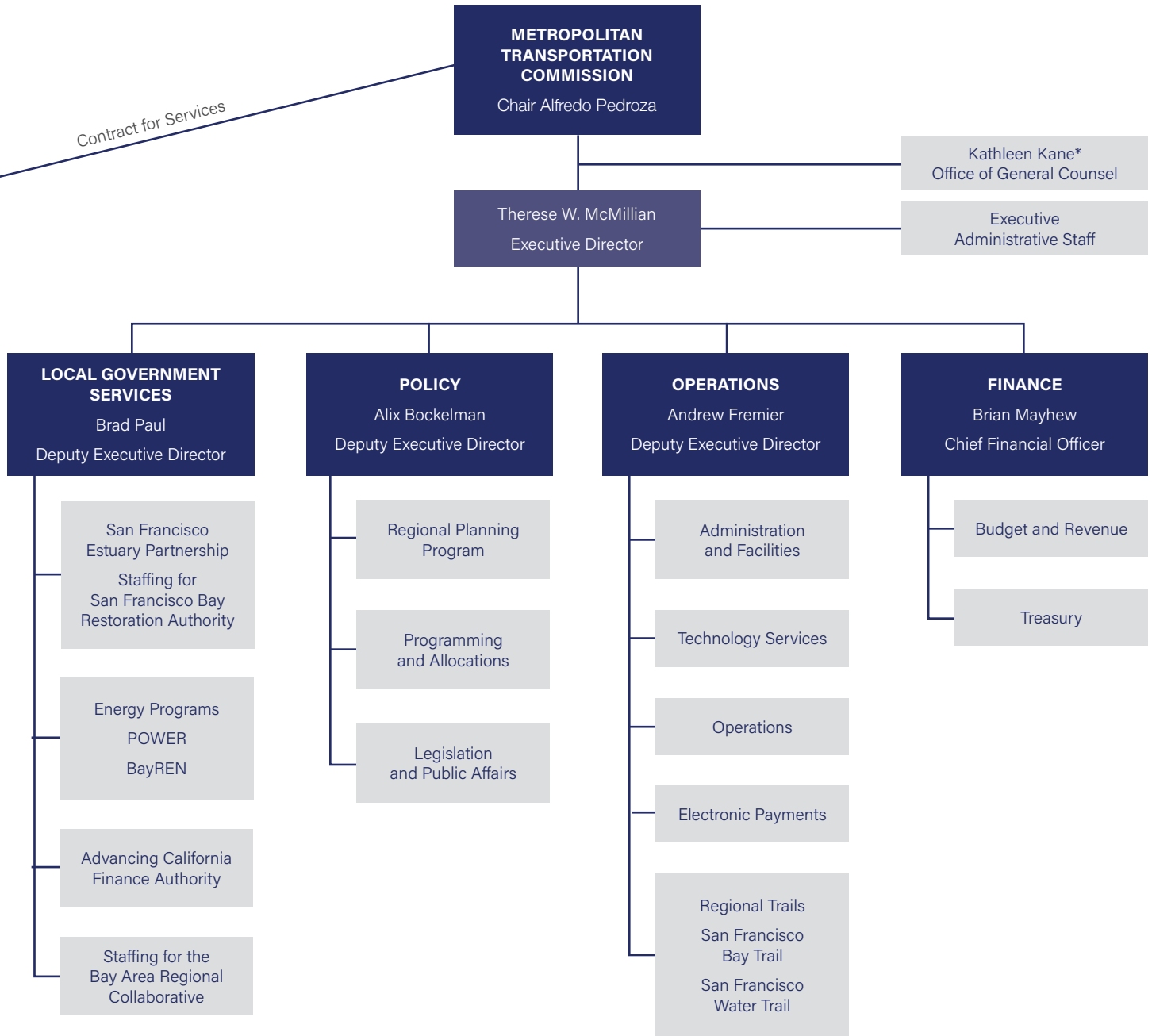
As the San Francisco Bay Area's regional Council of Governments, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) provides a range of services to its member cities, towns and counties. ABAG was created in 1961 to provide a forum for local elected officials to discuss topical issues, specifically around regional planning and, in later years, services. ABAG was the first Council of Governments established in California. Recognizing that community issues transcend local boundaries, ABAG now examines issues of regional and local concern addressing planning and research needs related to land use, environmental and water resource protection; builds local governments' capacity regarding disaster resilience and energy and water efficiency; and provides financial services to local counties, cities and towns. ABAG is a joint powers authority and membership is comprised of the 101 cities and towns and the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area. Elected officials from each serve as governance for the organization. Organizational and governance charts are included in this document (see pages 6 and 7).

The consolidated ABAG and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) staff, as of July 1, 2017, serves both organizations, and since the consolidation has found new and stronger connections between programs, policies and activities. While the staff functions under one executive director, ABAG and MTC continue to be separate governance entities with their own statutory authorities and responsibilities, policy positions, assets, liabilities, revenues, debts and local collaboration programs. This Budget and Work Program contains the details of all the programs and services provided in 2020-2021 and the planned activities and budget for 2021-2022. Additional information is provided at abag.ca.gov.

GOVERNANCE CHART



CONSOLIDATED ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



* Advises the Executive Board and Commission directly



02

**REGIONAL
PLANNING
PROGRAM**



REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM

02

SECTION



The ABAG and MTC Regional Planning Program will continue planning work to address key long-standing challenges facing the region, including housing affordability, economic development, resilience to hazards, and planning for investments in the region's transportation infrastructure. Central to this effort will be the adoption of Plan Bay Area 2050, as well as the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and the expanded work on Regional Housing Technical Assistance with the Regional Early Action Planning funding. In all our upcoming work, the staff will continue to emphasize the importance of engagement with our local cities, towns and counties, as well as with other stakeholders, including residents and businesses across the Bay Area.

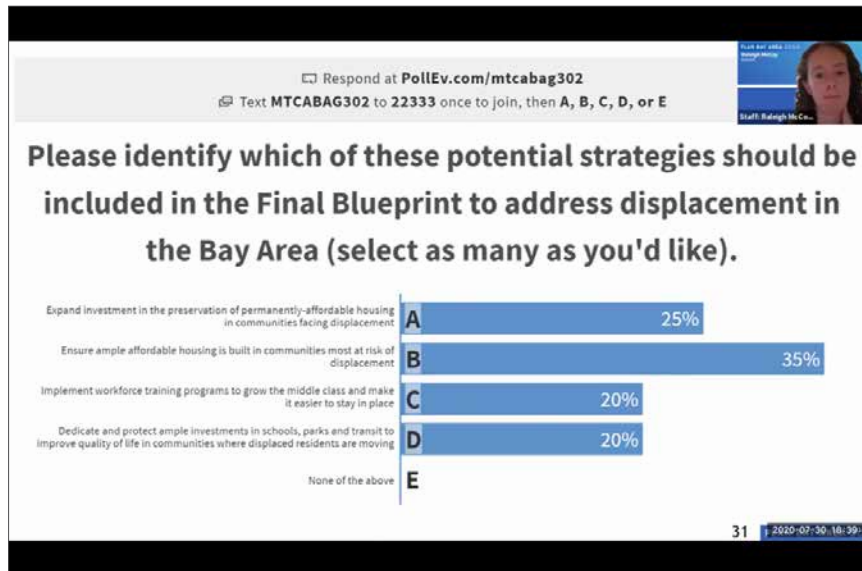
ABAG and MTC, between the two agencies, offer 19 technical assistance (TA) programs that help local jurisdictions perform specific tasks and leverage resources. A TA webpage(s) project is in progress to increase the visibility of the TA programs and to make these programs more accessible to our local partners. The TA project is expected to be live on the ABAG website in summer 2021, with the Housing TA program highlighted first.

This document focuses on the major outward-facing projects and programs that will be considered by the ABAG Executive Board and committees throughout the fiscal year. The Regional Planning Program staff continue to work collaboratively — across functional areas — to deliver planning work that distills the region's challenges and opportunities and serves the needs of our diverse communities and residents.



REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM

SECTION 02



HORIZON AND PLAN BAY AREA 2050

The Horizon initiative was the first comprehensive Bay Area planning effort to examine not just transportation and housing but economic development, resilience and the effects of emerging technologies. The process explored dozens of potential strategies — public policies and investments that could be advanced on the local, regional, or state levels — in three divergent Futures, “what if...” scenarios. Horizon concluded in fall 2019 with specific policy recommendations on resilient and equitable strategies for consideration in Plan Bay Area 2050, the region’s next-generation long-range plan.

Development of Plan Bay Area 2050 began in fall 2019 with public engagement that involved thousands of Bay Area residents providing feedback on strategies for the region’s future, followed by workshops with stakeholders to continue refining strategies and growth geographies for the plan’s Blueprint. Conducted in two phases – Draft Blueprint and Final Blueprint – the ABAG Executive Board and Commission approved a set of 35 final Strategies and the associated Growth Geographies and Regional Growth Forecast in fall 2020. The Final Blueprint was identified as the Preferred EIR Alternative by both boards in January 2021, enabling a transition to the final phase of Plan Bay Area 2050, which focuses on development of the Plan Document, EIR and near-term Implementation Plan.

More information on the Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint/Preferred Alternative can be found at: <https://www.planbayarea.org/2050-plan/plan-bay-area-2050-final-blueprint>.



2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

- Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint: Conducted public and stakeholder engagement throughout summer 2020 to refine the Draft Blueprint strategies, ultimately leading to the approval of 35 equitable and resilient strategies in fall 2020.
- Environmental Impact Report (EIR): Conducted scoping process in fall 2020, followed by approval of the Final Blueprint as the Preferred EIR Alternative in January 2021; with release of the Draft EIR envisioned for late spring 2021.
- Plan Document: Began development of Plan Document; release of the Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 document envisioned for late spring 2021.
- Implementation Plan: Held virtual stakeholder workshops and one-on-one meetings to identify potential near-term implementation actions for ABAG/MTC and partners; released proposed roles/success factors for each of the 35 strategies; release of the Draft Implementation Plan with specific actions envisioned for late spring 2021.
- Public Engagement: Final round of public engagement for Plan Bay Area 2050 slated for late spring 2021/early summer 2021, with virtual workshops, webinars and more.
- Results of this analysis are anticipated in late spring 2020.

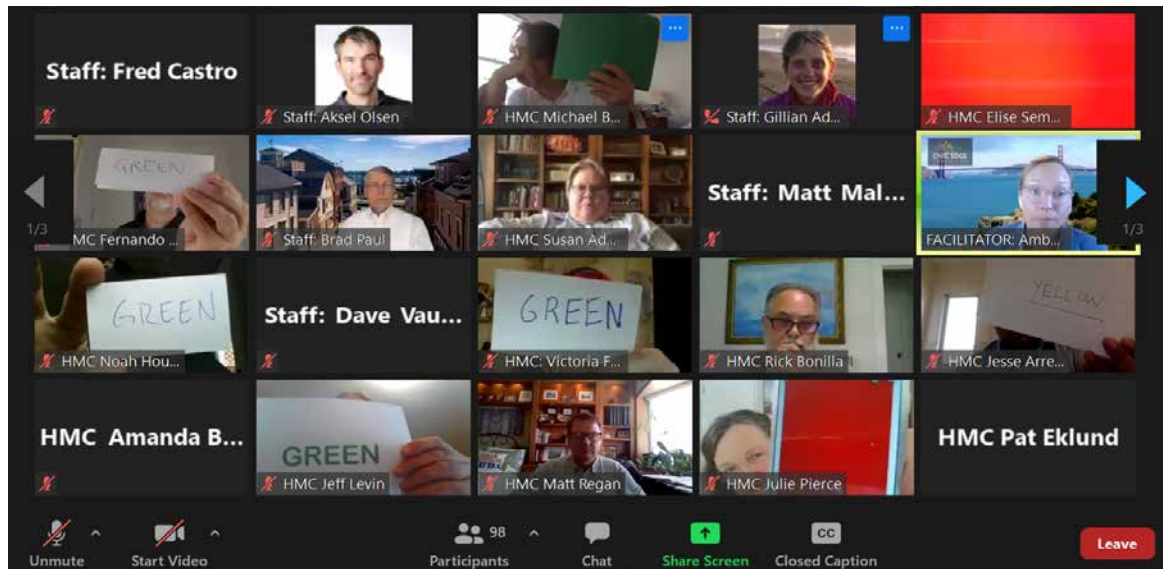
2021-22 GOALS

- Finalize the Plan Bay Area 2050 Document, Implementation Plan and EIR; seek adoption by ABAG Executive Board and Commission in fall 2021.
- Engage with state and federal agencies to seek final approval of Plan Bay Area 2050 by relevant regulatory authorities, including the California Air Resources Board (CARB) by winter 2022.



REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM

SECTION 02



REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ALLOCATION

The Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) is the state-mandated process to identify the total number of housing units (by affordability level) that each city, town and county must accommodate in its Housing Element. As part of this process, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) identifies the total housing need for the Bay Area for an eight-year period (in this cycle, from 2023 to 2031). ABAG must then develop a methodology to distribute this need to local governments in a manner that is consistent with the development pattern included in Plan Bay Area 2050.

RHNA statutes outline a detailed process and schedule for how ABAG must develop an allocation methodology that meets the statute's objectives. The methodology must consider 12 statutory factors and accomplish two outcomes:

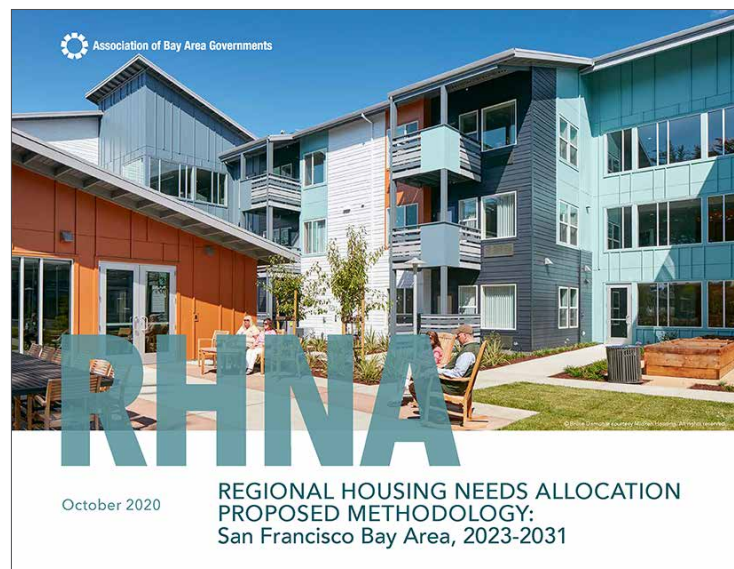
- Allocate a share of housing need (in units) to each jurisdiction.
- Identify each jurisdiction's share of need by income category.

After ABAG adopts the methodology it issues a draft allocation to jurisdictions. Jurisdictions and HCD then have an opportunity to appeal a jurisdiction's allocation. After ABAG takes action on the appeals, it issues the final allocation. Each local government must then revise its Housing

Element to show how it plans to accommodate its portion of the region's housing need. The Housing Element must include an inventory of sites that have been zoned for sufficient capacity to accommodate the jurisdiction's RHNA allocation. ABAG's formal role within RHNA ends with adoption of the final allocation.

A significant highlight for the RHNA process in fiscal year 2020-2021 was the completion of the Housing Methodology Committee's work in developing the Proposed RHNA methodology. Following a public comment period to gather feedback about the Proposed RHNA Methodology, the Draft RHNA Methodology was adopted in January 2021. Information about the Draft RHNA Methodology was submitted to HCD for its review as required by law, with feedback from HCD informing the Final RHNA Methodology and Draft RHNA Allocations.

This fiscal year, staff will conduct the appeals process outlined in Housing Element Law that allows a jurisdiction or HCD to appeal a jurisdiction's Draft RHNA Allocation. As part of this process, ABAG will hold public hearings to hear the appeals submitted by local governments or by HCD. After ABAG takes action on the appeals, it will issue Final RHNA Allocations by the end of 2021. Local governments must update Housing Elements by January 2023, including identifying sites that are zoned with enough capacity to meet the RHNA allocation.



2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

- Supported the Housing Methodology Committee as it finalized its recommendations for the Proposed RHNA Methodology, which was approved in October 2020.
- Conducted a public hearing and gathered written feedback about the Proposed RHNA Methodology and Draft Subregional Shares from local governments, advocacy organizations and other stakeholders, and members of the public.
- The Draft RHNA Methodology and Final Subregional Shares were adopted in January 2021. Information about the Draft RHNA Methodology was submitted to HCD for its review and shared with local governments, stakeholders, and members of the public.
- Anticipated approval of the Final RHNA Methodology and Draft RHNA Allocations.

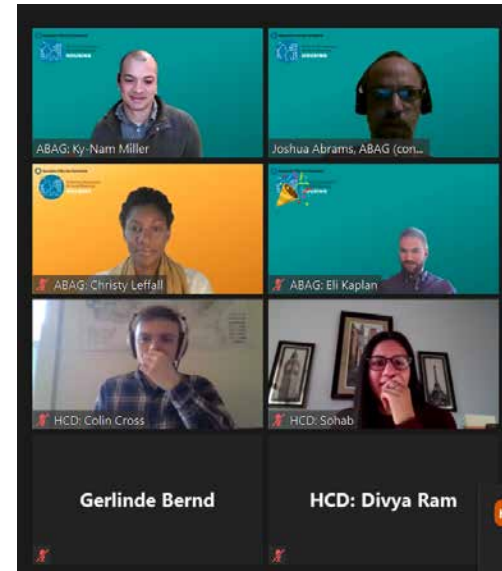
2021-22 GOALS

- Conduct RHNA appeals process.
- Develop Final RHNA Allocations and seek Executive Board approval of the Final RHNA Plan.



REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM

SECTION 02



HOUSING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

During the past year, staff has increased efforts to assist local jurisdictions working to meet the region's housing needs. The signature effort of this work is ABAG's new Regional Housing Technical Assistance (Housing TA) Program, which has been launched with roughly \$24 million in one-time state funding. The focus of the Housing TA Program is to support Bay Area jurisdictions in updating their Housing Elements to implement the sixth cycle of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation. Local Housing Elements must be submitted to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) by approximately January 2023.

After engaging in extensive outreach to local jurisdictions and other stakeholders to understand local needs, ABAG designed the Housing TA Program with two categories of activities: direct financial assistance to local jurisdictions and regional technical assistance products. The Housing TA Program is designed to complement nearly \$50M in funding for housing planning that Bay Area jurisdictions received directly from the state in the form of SB2 and LEAP grants, while also achieving economies of scale to maximize the local benefit of regional dollars.

Looking to the future, ABAG will continue in a more active role in securing new resources and providing technical assistance to Bay Area jurisdictions. ABAG staff will develop a portfolio of tools flexible enough to tailor solutions for each jurisdiction's unique challenges.



2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

- Launched the new Housing TA program, partnering with local jurisdictions to update Housing Elements and otherwise work towards meeting the region's housing needs.
- Approved over \$10 million in housing planning subgrants to all 109 Bay Area jurisdictions. The consolidated staff developed a simple, web-based application form that enabled jurisdictions to seamlessly apply for these housing funds and also for Priority Development Area (PDA) Planning and Technical Assistance grants managed by MTC.
- Seated a new Regional Planning Consulting Bench to facilitate procurements and ease contract administration for ABAG as well as local jurisdiction staff, with a focus on services that will be required for local jurisdictions to complete their Housing Element updates.
- Formed and funded county-level Planning Collaboratives, to develop relationships between jurisdictions, enable peer-to-peer learning and serve as the primary delivery mechanism for a range of tailored technical assistance.

- Developed a suite of technical assistance products and tools to assist local staff with key tasks associated with developing a Housing Element. This included compilation of individually tailored data packets for all 109 jurisdictions, launching an innovative, web-based Housing Element Site Selection (HESS) Tool, and producing a 10-part webinar training series for local planners in partnership with State Housing and Community Development.

2021-22 GOALS

- Administer over \$10 million in local housing planning grant allocations, which includes the Regional Planning Consulting Bench activities.
- Continue to support and fund the county-level Planning Collaboratives.
- Refine existing technical assistance products and data tools, including developing "2.0" modules for the HESS tool and new "affirmatively furthering fair housing" material for the data packets.
- Launch a series of peer Cohorts and Workgroups of jurisdictions to focus on common challenges and subject matter, including development of specialized technical assistance products as requested by participating jurisdictions.



REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM

SECTION 02



EXPANDED REGIONAL HOUSING PORTFOLIO

In partnership with MTC, ABAG has launched an Expanded Regional Housing Portfolio. One of the centerpieces of this effort is the new Bay Area Regional Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA), which was established in 2019 by AB 1487 (Chiu). The Expanded Regional Housing Portfolio and BAHFA will collaborate with public and private sector partners to attract new resources to address the “3 Ps” of housing: protection of current residents, preservation of existing homes and production of new homes.

2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- Formed a new ABAG Housing Committee to partner with MTC on the launch of the Expanded Regional Housing Portfolio and BAHFA.
- Published a Concept Paper for the Expanded Regional Housing Portfolio that serves as blueprint for new near-term activities, including the development of five key pilot projects.
- In partnership with MTC, released an RFP for a Business Plan for the Expanded Regional Housing Portfolio and BAHFA.



2021-2022 GOALS

- Secure seed funding for the Expanded Regional Housing Portfolio and BAHFA to begin the rollout of the five pilot projects in the Concept Paper.
- Launch the Expanded Regional Housing Portfolio and BAHFA Business Plan, including engagement with stakeholders across the 3Ps.
- Continue to partner with MTC and BAHFA to advocate for increased state and federal funding to support affordable housing production, preservation and tenant protections in the Bay Area.



REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM

SECTION 02



RESILIENCE PROGRAM

The Resilience Program continues to support hazard mitigation and climate adaptation research, planning and action for a resilient Bay Area. The program offers local government leaders access to robust technical analyses, best practices for disaster resilience as well as special events featuring prominent local and national resiliency experts. During the last year, the resilience program has integrated natural hazards and climate impacts into Plan Bay Area 2050, leading the development of strategies to adapt the region's shoreline to sea level rise and modernize deficient older buildings with energy, water, seismic and wildfire upgrades. The program is also providing aligned support to the Housing Technical Assistance program, offering local governments resources to incorporate resilience into their upcoming housing element updates.

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided continued subject matter guidance to the Plan Bay Area 2050 process and worked with regional stakeholders on an implementation approach for adopted Plan Bay Area resilience strategies.
- Coordinated with partner regional agencies, including the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC) and Bay Conservation

and Development Commission (BCDC), on advanced climate adaptation planning guidance and resources for local governments. This effort included other ABAG programs and projects, such as the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) and Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN).

- Developed a regional estimate of the number of seismically deficient buildings, which included soft-story buildings, to further advance retrofit efforts.

2021-22 GOALS

- Advance the Plan Bay Area 2050 sea level rise adaptation strategy in partnership with BARC, BCDC, and SFEP regional partners. This effort will focus on funding analysis for the \$19 billion strategy cost.
- Advance the Plan Bay Area 2050 existing building retrofit strategies in partnership with BayREN and BAAQMD regional partners. This effort will focus on aligning seismic, wildfire, drought, energy efficiency and decarbonization efforts.
- Provide add-on resilience support and resources to the regional housing technical assistance program focused at reducing the impact of climate change and natural hazards in housing element updates.



DATA ENGAGEMENT

Vital Signs is the Bay Area's regional performance monitoring initiative, which provides users with the opportunity to interact via a website with data for 41 indicators related to transportation, land use, the economy, the environment and social equity. Spurred by the adoption of the original Plan Bay Area in 2013, Vital Signs is designed to regularly track progress towards crosscutting goals established in the long-range regional plans, as well as federally-mandated short-range performance targets. Data typically are available at the regional, county, city and neighborhood level and visualized using interactive charts and maps, with updates to the website occurring roughly once every two years. To date, the site has been used by about 120,000 unique visitors, including the public, journalists, academics and planning staff at city, county and regional agencies. Currently, the site is undergoing a refresh to provide a better user experience, easier navigation and better export tools.

The Bay Area Spatial Information System (BASIS) is a new initiative, developed by ABAG and MTC. Managed by the Data and Visualization Team, this system has been designed to manage key regional datasets on an industry standard platform, empowering regional and local stakeholders to manage, update, disseminate and consume these datasets via an intuitive user interface. BASIS is an evolution of past data management efforts, such as the the Local Policy Development Survey and Land Use Measurement (1976-1977) that sought to collect data from local jurisdictions for use in regional forecasts and long-range planning activities for the nine county San Francisco Bay Area region.

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

- Updates to select economy, transportation, land & people, and environment Vital Signs indicator pages showcasing the latest data.
- Updates to targets page on Vital Signs to highlight progress toward federally mandated, short-range regional targets.
- Collection of key datasets for the long-range plan from all Bay Area jurisdictions, including zoning and general plan data at the parcel level, development pipeline projects and sphere of influence boundaries.

2021-22 GOALS

- Launch an updated version of Vital Signs ("Vital Signs 2.0") in mid-2021. The updates will improve the user experience through more modern designs, refreshed data visualizations and improved navigation based on the latest tools, while upgrades to the back end of the site will improve site sustainability and security.
- Explore the addition of new indicators to add unique value to the site, focusing on land use, equity, economy and transportation.
- Identify new datasets to manage using BASIS via needs assessment of ABAG-MTC and regional and local partners. Work with regional and local partners to build tools that enable the management, analysis and visualization of their data on the BASIS platform.



03

**LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
SERVICES**



LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

SECTION 03



Local Government Services

This group provides a range of programs and services including: protection, enhancement and restoration of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary; natural gas, energy and water conservation programs and infrastructure through ABAG POWER and BayREN; and assisting local governments and nonprofits gain access to tax exempt bond financing for housing, schools, hospitals, clinics, parks and other projects.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

SECTION 03



ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership and its cooperating agencies and organizations initiated and continued work on a wide array of projects and activities in support of the Partnership's mandate: to protect, enhance and restore the San Francisco Estuary.

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed all 10 projects funded under Round 3 of the Integrated Regional Watershed Management grant program.
- Completed the "San Pablo Avenue Green Stormwater Spine" projects in four different cities, treating six acres of previously impervious surface area.
- Staffed the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, providing project management, proposal review and budget development; support for the Governing Board and Advisory Committee; and primary coordination for the Oversight Committee.
- Launched the update process for the next version of the Estuary Blueprint.
- Received an additional \$1.8 million from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to fund water needs assessments in disadvantaged communities and tribes.
- Received \$22,750,000 from DWR to fund eight new projects around the region under the Integrated Regional Water Management Program.
- Entered into a \$950,000 agreement with the Delta Stewardship Council to implement scientific studies and projects to respond to priority issues that impact the Estuary.
- Received \$1.9 million from the US EPA to advance nature-based shoreline infrastructure projects.



- Passed the US EPA five-year Program Evaluation, maintaining eligibility for federal funding through the National Estuary Program.

2021-22 GOALS

- Hold the 2021 State of the Estuary Conference.
- Release the 2022 Estuary Blueprint, a collaborative five-year action plan to increase the health and resiliency of the Estuary.
- Advance implementation of the Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program.
- Continue to identify and secure new funding sources to advance nature-based infrastructure projects.
- Increase recreational vessel pump-out usage and awareness among the boating community through outreach and education.
- Secure additional funding from DWR through the Integrated Regional Water Management Program to implement projects identified as part of the Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement Program.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

03

SECTION



BAYREN

The Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) helps Bay Area residents and communities become more energy efficient while also helping residents decarbonize their homes. BayREN is a collaboration of the nine counties and attributes much of its success to the organizational structure that leverages the expertise and experience of local Bay Area governments. BayREN provides funding to build the internal capacity of local cities and counties to administer successful climate and sustainability programs.

BayREN's portfolio includes: single-family and multifamily energy retrofit programs that offer both energy efficiency and electrification measures with associated rebates; the Green Labeling program that provides training to real estate professionals about the benefits of a green home and offers a rebate to assessors that conduct a Home Energy Score; Codes and Standards, dedicated to working with local building officials to better understand and comply with the State Energy Code; a Commercial program focusing on small-to-medium sized businesses, and several financing programs, including an on-bill water efficiency program and zero interest loans for multifamily energy retrofit projects.

BayREN is primarily funded by Public Goods Charges as approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and currently has an annual budget of over \$24 million.

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

- Quickly pivoted all programs to comply with COVID-19 restrictions, moving trainings, audits, marketing events and other activities to a virtual format, and provided additional support to our workforce.
- Met or exceeded our program goals despite the pandemic. Many trainings saw a threefold increase in attendance and there was much greater geographic diversity among attendees.
- Launched the new Energy Atlas, a large database of Pacific Gas and Electric account level electricity and natural gas consumption linked spatially to building characteristics and sociodemographic data. The Atlas is a tool for local governments to help guide local policy on reducing energy consumption.
- Continued the "BayREN is Electrifying the Bay Area!" campaign that communicates about all the electrification efforts within the portfolio designed to help the Bay Area move towards decarbonization goals. BayREN's efforts have been recognized and lauded, and have been presented at several workshops conducted by state agencies.
- Increased partnerships with our seven Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs), resulting in several joint programs, regular collaboration meetings and firm commitments to work together to provide holistic program offerings to meet the needs of our respective customers, particularly related to decarbonization.



- Paid rebates of well over \$9 million to Bay Area single-family and multifamily homeowners and renters for making energy retrofits. Also paid over \$400,000 in rebates to Bay Area homeowners who have Department of Energy Home Energy Scores.
- Continued the successful partnership with Rising Sun Center for Opportunity and its Climate Careers program, providing youth employment and training.
- Received funding from Bay Area Air Quality Management District for an electric vehicle (EV) pilot and for electrification technologies.
- Increased individualized support to BayREN member county agencies to assist them with more productive outreach and service to their local jurisdictions.

2021-22 GOALS

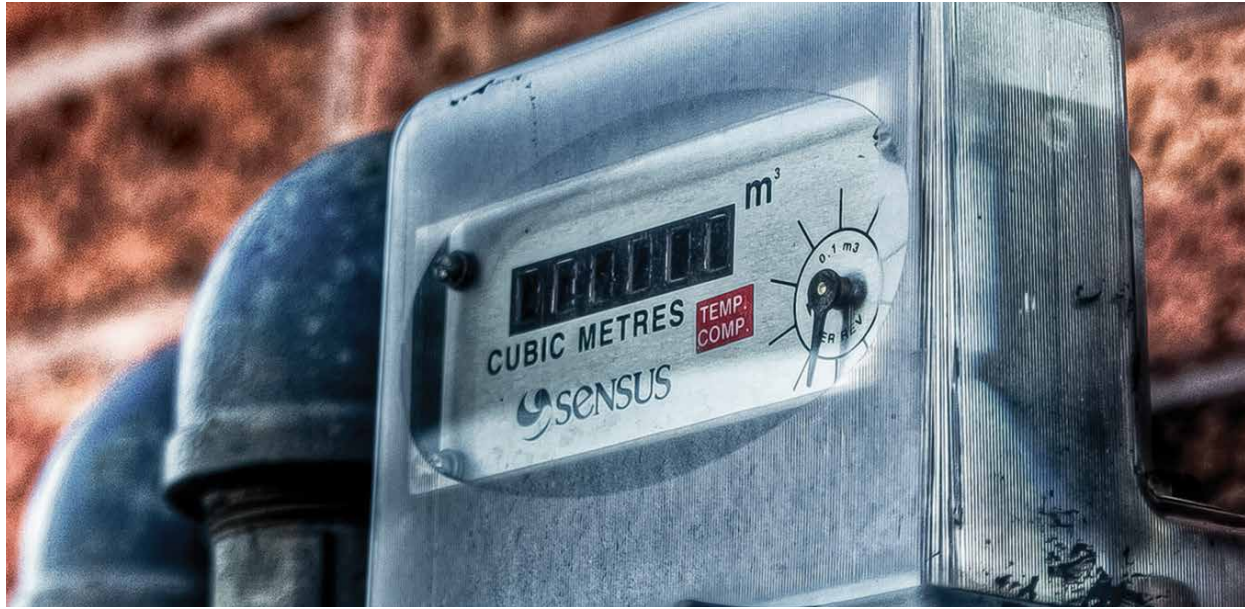
- Expand on the successful CCA collaboration.
- Position the portfolio for funding from the Biden-Harris Build Back Better Plan, which has many goals and strategies that are consistent with BayREN.
- Continue current successful programs.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

03

SECTION



ABAG POWER

ABAG Publicly OWned Energy Resources (POWER) was formed in 1998 to provide leadership for local governments in energy management and aggregated energy procurement. POWER offers its members a region-wide natural gas purchasing pool, providing stable and preferential pricing of natural gas for use in cost-sensitive public facilities such as hospitals, police and fire stations, zoos and community centers. More recently, the program is initiating efforts to consider program offerings that aid local governments in achieving climate-related goals. ABAG POWER's natural gas aggregation program currently serves 38 cities, counties and special districts and aims to provide rates that are both lower and more stable than the default energy provider (Pacific Gas and Electric Company – PG&E).

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

- Insulated member agencies from short-term market price volatility caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and California's catastrophic wildfires.
- Initiated discussions and onboarded a key partner to conduct strategic program design planning, which seeks to leverage the size and unique structure of ABAG POWER to aid its member agencies in achieving climate-related goals.
- Successfully and rapidly transitioned to a fully electronic invoicing portal and utility database, improving the members' access to information.

2021-22 GOALS

- Identify, create and begin implementing at least one program helping member agencies achieve climate-related goals.
- Incorporate revenue-generating opportunities related to Renewable Natural Gas as a vehicle fuel.
- Examine opportunities to increase program membership.



ACFA

In 2018, staff created a new ABAG conduit finance authority — the Advancing California Financing Authority (ACFA) — to provide more secure, low-cost and convenient financing for public benefit projects. ACFA is staffed by the Finance and Local Government Services departments with professional assistance from legal and finance consultants at Nixon/Peabody, Public Financial Management and Sperry Capital. Each year, ACFA will contribute surplus fee revenue to ABAG's general fund to expand successful regional programs and create new ones.

ACFA continues the work of ABAG's Finance Authority for Nonprofits (FAN) founded in 1978. FAN issued \$8 billion in tax-exempt bond financing for 12,000 units of affordable housing, hospitals and medical clinics, private schools and cultural institutions, water and wastewater systems, transit systems and other public infrastructure.

ACFA on July 1, 2020 began managing the nearly \$2 billion in outstanding bonds previously managed by FAN to both streamline and improve the process.

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

- Helped cities and project sponsors with outstanding FAN bonds amend their original financing agreements as needed to continue meeting their obligations or to refinance.
- Began conversations with other Local Government Services programs to determine if ACFA eventually can be a source of funding to scale up successful energy, water and housing conservation programs.

2021-22 GOALS

- Strengthen relationships with prospective borrowers and partners by continuing to educate municipalities on the time and cost savings of issuing municipal debt via a conduit authority and the unique benefits of using ACFA to do so.
- Promote ACFA services to ABAG's BayREN energy and water conservation program clients, expanding the potential ACFA client base.
- Generate surplus fee revenue from new business to contribute to other ABAG programs.
- Help the region's 101 cities and nine counties meet their housing and infrastructure goals by providing financing assistance.



04

OPERATIONS



SECTION 04



Regional Trails

The San Francisco Bay Trail, the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail and the Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) are regional programs coordinated by ABAG and implemented by local agencies and organizations. The Regional Trails program is now within MTC's Design and Project Delivery section to take advantage of the staff's construction knowledge.

Regional Trails programs advance the protection and stewardship of natural resources and expand the system of urban trails, parks and bikeways to increase the quality of life, health and economic prosperity of the region. This upcoming fiscal year, through strong partnerships with local agencies and organizations, staff will support these programs by providing technical assistance, allocating funding, promoting awareness and participating in regional and local planning efforts.



OPERATIONS

04

SECTION



2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- Saw orders of magnitude increases in trail users due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Closed major Bay Trail gap at Golden Gate Fields in Albany in partnership with East Bay Regional Park District.
- Closed major Bay Trail gap at Ravenswood Open Space in East Palo Alto in partnership with Midpeninsula Open Space District.
- Recorded 100,000 trips across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge on the Bay Trail bicycle/pedestrian path.
- Updated “Birding the Bay Trail” brochure.
- Partnered to develop the Carquinez Strait Scenic Loop Vision Plan.
- Call for Bay Trail grant applications under Block Grant number six from the State Coastal Conservancy.
- Partnered with Save the Bay to promote Bay Day and the Bay Trail during the month of October.
- Supported San Francisco City Guides in the development of Bay Trail Confidential, a monthly online program to highlight and promote the Bay Trail.
- Continued the partnership with Doug McConnell to sponsor and develop episodes of NBC Bay Area’s Open Road, highlighting the Bay Trail and raising program awareness.
- Designated the 53rd official Water Trail site for non-motorized small boats and released the Bay Area Boardsailing Guidelines.
- Completed two Water Trail grant funded projects to provide new ADA accessible boat launch facilities and initiated two new Water Trail grants to enhance facilities in Severely Disadvantaged Communities.
- Solicited updated proposals from the 2019-20 PCA Grant cycle to disburse remaining One Bay Area Grant Program (OBAG 2) funds. Reviewed and recommended five PCA grants to advance natural land conservation, restoration, agricultural preservation and regional recreation goals.



2021-2022 GOALS

- Advance completion of the remaining gaps in the Bay Trail and implement the Water Trail Program vision, through partnerships with local agencies and organizations.
- Provide funding to spur further development of the Bay Trail and Water Trail, particularly in Severely Disadvantaged Communities, and to expand awareness of the trails through public outreach.
- Continue to participate in regional and local planning efforts to develop policies, programs and funding that support the completion of the Bay Trail and Water Trail.
- Manage 13 PCA grant contracts and solicit additional applications for projects within designated PCAs.
- Participate in regional initiatives to improve shoreline resiliency and protect regional recreation and active transportation resources.
- Bring under contract five additional PCA grant-funded projects.



05

**LEGISLATION AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SECTION 05



The Legislation and Public Affairs (LPA) section provides ABAG and MTC with communications, media relations, public engagement, records management, social media, web and graphic design, along with state, local and federal legislative analysis and advocacy. These tasks include informing and engaging ABAG's membership, including local officials, advocacy organizations and the general public about ABAG's programs and services.

LPA's public engagement team works to involve the diverse communities of the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area in the work of ABAG and MTC. Strategies include sponsoring public events, forums, social media, web and digital communications and the like, especially in regard to the region's long-range transportation plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, which ABAG adopts jointly with MTC. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of this outreach work has been adapted to Zoom or other virtual platforms. A graphics team develops maps, visuals, reports and video to enhance communications efforts.

Legislative staff monitors and analyzes state and federal legislation for its impact on Bay Area transportation, land use, housing and other issues, as well as on ABAG's and MTC's overall long-range planning objectives. Staff coordinates with other local, regional and statewide organizations; develops legislative proposals and analyses; recommends positions on pending legislation to the Joint MTC/ABAG Legislation Committee; obtains Executive Board approval; and communicates adopted positions to the appropriate legislative bodies. Advocacy includes visits by staff and Executive Board members with state and federal elected officials.

The ABAG/MTC Library provides library and research services for the ABAG Executive Board and staff, as well as for the Commission, partner agencies and the public.



SECTION 05



PUBLIC OUTREACH

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

- Planned and coordinated two General Assemblies, including one on Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and Plan Bay Area.
- Worked closely with Planning staff to provide outreach and support for the RHNA process, including a series of virtual Housing Methodology Committee meetings and new webpages.
- Developed — for the Housing Technical Assistance Program (Housing TA) — a community outreach plan and a series of products and tools to assist local staff conduct outreach activities associated with developing a Housing Element.
- Provided outreach and support for the Housing TA Program activities, including support of a series of virtual webinars.
- Provided outreach and support for Plan Bay Area 2050 long-range planning. This included ongoing updates to the PBA 2050 website and extensive public engagement activities held virtually in response to the pandemic.
- Held a series of virtual events in summer 2020 that focused on seeking public and stakeholder input to inform strategy revisions for the Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint. Activities included:
 - An animated video used to educate the public on the PBA 2050 strategies.
 - An online survey that was digitally promoted extensively via social media channels
 - A statistically valid telephone poll
 - A series of digital focus groups in partnership with local community-based organizations
 - A webinar forum (“Coffee Conversations”) to foster dialogue with the public
 - Nine digital open house workshops (one focused on each Bay Area county)
 - A digital tribal summit with the Bay Area’s federally recognized tribal governments
 - Office hours with planning staff and relevant partners and stakeholders
 - Three partner and planning stakeholder technical workshops
 - Five telephone town halls (two in English and one each in Cantonese, Mandarin and Spanish)
 - A telephone “listening line” to receive comments.



- Held a series of virtual engagement events in winter 2021 seeking feedback on the PBA 2050 Implementation Plan, which included:
 - An online survey promoted extensively via social media
 - A text-based survey
 - 11 focus groups (eight in partnership with local community-based organizations and three with high school students from throughout the region)
 - Implementation Plan “Focused Discussions” with Bay Area cities and counties, other public agencies, nonprofit organizations and other planning stakeholders.
- Produced regular news updates and stories on the ABAG website.
- Disseminated timely communications through extensive news blasts.
- Continued to support the various programs and projects with press releases, website updates, news stories and through other communication channels.

2020-21 GOALS

- Plan and coordinate the General Assembly and other regional forums and outreach activities in a virtual environment.
- Facilitate access to ABAG programs, projects, initiatives and resources using the website and social media.
- Continue developing and implementing the Housing TA community relations products and tools.
- Provide on-going outreach and support for Housing TA webinars and other activities.
- Provide outreach and support for the last round of Plan Bay Area 2050 public engagement. Upcoming engagement will seek feedback on the Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 document and the Draft Environmental Impact Report for Plan Bay Area 2050.
- Continue to distribute a bi-monthly electronic newsletter with updates and planning information.



LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SECTION 05



LEGISLATION

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

- Developed Joint Legislative Advocacy Program for ABAG and MTC, articulating the policy goals and strategies at the state and federal levels to support both agencies.
- Successfully negotiated amendments to numerous housing bills, including AB 1487 (Chiu), which authorizes ABAG and MTC to place on the ballot a regional housing funding measure; AB 1486 (Ting) related to surplus public land; and AB 68 (Ting) related to streamlining accessory dwelling units.
- Secured significant new one-time technical assistance and planning funding for housing purposes in the FY 2019-20 State Budget, including \$25 million for ABAG through the REAP and \$25 million for local Bay Area jurisdictions through the LEAP.
- Given the uncertainties resulting from COVID-19, secured flexibility through SB 146 (Beall) for virtual public engagement meetings and virtual pop-up meetings through 2022 to satisfy the extensive public engagement requirements for sustainable communities strategies such as Plan Bay Area 2050.

2021-22 GOALS

- Implement the ABAG-MTC Joint 2021 Advocacy Program at the state and federal levels, including tracking, analyzing and recommending bill positions. Focus on:
- Housing/Homelessness – secure additional state funding to support construction of new affordable housing; protect existing residents from unjust evictions and displacement; support legislation to boost housing density near jobs-rich, high-quality transit and high-resource areas with reasonable local flexibility provided; pursue an \$18.5 million state budget appropriation to launch five Bay Area Housing Finance Authority pilot projects across the 3Ps of tenant protection, preservation and production, plus homelessness prevention; support policies and funding proposals aimed at reducing and preventing homelessness.
- Resilience — support the Bay Area's earthquake readiness with a focus on residential seismic retrofits; support legislation aimed at reducing exposure to wildfire risk; and support increased funding for climate adaptation and creation of a clear regional role in adaptation planning and funding, in partnership with local agencies.





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