Association of Bay Area Governments Housing Committee	Bay Area Housing Finance Authority Oversight Committee

April 29, 2021   **Agenda Item 9.a.**

Regional Data Tools for Local Housing Planning

Subject: Report on New Regional Data Tools for Local Housing Planning—Overview of regional data tools developed to assist local jurisdictions with adopting compliant Housing Elements

Background: ABAG has launched the Regional Housing Technical Assistance program with the support of Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) funds from the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The program's goal is to assist local jurisdictions in adopting compliant Housing Elements and increasing housing opportunities in their communities. To avoid duplication of effort, ABAG staff is developing regional data tools that can be tailored by local staff to meet their respective needs. These products will be pre-reviewed by HCD to establish "safe harbors" and increase predictability in the Housing Element approval process.

Report: **Housing Needs Data Packets:** The Housing Needs Data packets consist of jurisdiction-level data in the form of editable tables, figures, and accompanying text that can be placed directly into the statutorily required Housing Needs Section of the Housing Element. This product has been pre-reviewed by HCD for consistency with state requirements and streamlines data collection so that jurisdictions can focus on developing meaningful policies and programs.

Housing Element Site Selection (HESS) Tool: The Housing Element Site Selection (HESS) Tool is a web-based mapping tool designed to guide jurisdictions in identifying potential sites for the statutorily required Sites Inventory of the Housing Element. The HESS Tool provides a wealth of data for every parcel in each jurisdiction and allows users to filter sites based on specified characteristics. It also screens out sites with environmental or infrastructure constraints and categorizes potential sites into groups that require specific analysis or action as required by HCD.

Upcoming Products: In Summer 2021, ABAG Staff will release additional regional data tools, including Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) products that will assist local jurisdictions with the Housing Element's Assessment of Fair Housing as required by HCD, as well as additional modules to the HESS Tool that allow local planning staff to determine realistic housing capacity of sites and to apply an AFFH lens to the Sites Inventory.

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Issues: None

Recommended Action: Information

Attachments: A. Presentation

B. Regional Data Framework (Link)

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