

Report on ABAG to MCCMC

MARCH 25, 2015

MARIN ABAG DELEGATES MEETING: On March 30, 2015, the Marin ABAG delegates are meeting to discuss the format, dates and location for the Plan Bay Area Update 2017 public workshop in Marin County in May. We will also be discussing the proposed methodology for projecting the population, jobs and housing numbers for Plan Bay Area Update 2017 and HUD activities. We encourage all ABAG delegates/alternates to join this important discussion with ABAG and MTC.

STATE OF THE REGION AND VITAL SIGNS INITIATIVE (PHASE 2: LAND, PEOPLE, AND ECONOMY): On March 6th, ABAG released the State of the Region Report, which provides an evaluation of trends and an understanding of current economic conditions in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The State of the Region report is posted at <http://reports.abag.ca.gov/sotr/2015>. Some of the online charts are interactive, showing additional data and relationships among factors. Other supplemental material may be linked to the web site over the course of the Plan Bay Area update as ABAG conducts further analysis for the forecast. Some key findings are:

- 1) With a 9.8% increase in employment and 10.7% increase in gross regional product between 2010 and 2013, the Bay Area has outpaced both California and the US in job recovery and expanding output. As of late 2014, employment has surpassed not only the peak of the housing boom, but also the higher peak of the earlier dot-com boom.
- 2) Despite strong region-wide growth in total personal income and declining unemployment rates, at a household level, incomes are below previous levels in inflation adjusted terms, and income disparities have grown.
- 3) Since 2010, population growth has centered more in urban areas compared to the two previous decades. Looking at population growth by age groups, all of the population increase since 2000 has been of people over 50 years old.
- 4) For 2007-2014, Bay Area jurisdictions identified 29,494 housing opportunity sites throughout the nine counties. However, the housing construction has lagged population and employment growth, leading to larger household sizes and higher rents and home prices. Five jurisdictions in the SF Bay Area – Oakley, Corte Madera, Yountville, Santa Clara County and Piedmont -- met at least 70% of RHNA across 3 income categories. Datasets can be found at: <http://abag.ca.gov/planning/housing/>
- 5) Challenges facing the region going forward include the volatility that accompanies innovation-driven growth, uneven wage and employment opportunities in different industries and occupations, and the perennial problem of providing housing affordable to households with a wide range of earnings in locations that minimize travel requirements.

At the joint MTC Planning and ABAG Administrative Committees meeting in March 2015, MTC featured their Vital Signs Initiative which tracks performance for key goals related to transportation, land and people, the economy, and the environment. Equity issues are cross cutting and are therefore included within each of the four performance areas. Later in March, MTC will release Vital Signs: Land and People, which will highlight population, employment, housing permits and greenfield development trends. In April 2015, MTC will release Vital Signs: Economy, which includes measures related to job creation, income, labor force, housing costs, poverty, economic output, and freight activity. The Vital Signs: Environment data will be released later this Spring/Summer. (www.vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov).

PDA'S FOR THE 2017 UPDATE PLAN BAY AREA: The ABAG Executive Board, on March 19, 2015, adopted the following PDA Criteria and Guidelines that retains the current three PDA criteria without modifications (location within an existing community, housing growth potential and access to transit); and, the density guidelines; but, changed the size of the PDA:

- 1) Within the urban footprint or urban growth boundary of an existing community;
 - 2) Planned, or planning for, additional housing;
 - 3) Access to transit infrastructure, including areas primarily within: 1) ½ mile of an existing rail station or ferry terminal; 2) ½ mile of a bus or Bus Rapid Transit stop served by a route with a minimum headway of 20 minutes during peak weekday commute periods; or 3) ½ mile of a planned transit station defined in MTC's Resolution 3434.
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- 4) Retain the PDA Density Guidelines, which provide general guidance on the density and mix of land uses in different types of PDAs.
- 5) Revise the PDA Size Guidelines—which in similar fashion to the Density guidelines provide general guidance—from a range of 100-500 acres to 40-640 acres. This proposed revision reflects the diversity of the region's PDAs, whose boundaries have often taken into account unique local characteristics.

ABAG has a PDA showcase on their website, which is worth exploring. <http://gis.abag.ca.gov/website/PDAShowcase/>

PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS (PCA): In February 2015, ABAG noticed jurisdictions and open space/park districts of the opportunity to remove an existing PCA, confirm an existing PCA or nominate a new PCA by May 30, 2015. The letter provided the process for confirming and/or submitting a new PCA application. The letter also provided an update on the four designations of PCAs which are:

- 1) **Natural Landscapes** – areas critical to the functioning of wildlife and plant habitats, aquatic ecosystems and the region's water supply and quality.
- 2) **Agricultural Lands** – farmland, grazing land and timberland that support the region's agricultural economy and provide additional benefits such as habitat protection and carbon capture.
- 3) **Urban Greening** – existing and potential green spaces in cities that increase habitat connectivity, improve community health, capture carbon emissions and address stormwater.
- 4) **Regional Recreation** – existing and potential regional parks, trails and other publicly accessible recreation facilities.

A copy of the application materials, a sample resolution and additional information about the designations is available online at: <http://abag.ca.gov/vision/conservation/>.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Marin ABAG Delegates meeting – March 30, 2015 6:30 to 9:00 pm Corte Madera Town Hall

ABAG Spring General Assembly and Business Meeting -- Thursday, April 23, 2015 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **Oakland Asian Cultural Center** 388 9th Street, Ste. 290 To register: <http://abag.ca.gov/events/ga/2015/>. This General Assembly will focus on Green Streets and Infrastructure Strategies: Sharing Best Practices Around Creating Complete Communities, Drought Protection, and Water Management.

The keynote speaker, David Sedlak, Professor at UC Berkeley, will speak about a more resilient, sustainable water system to avoid the economic, social and environmental damage of climate change, population growth and water quality concerns in the SF Bay Area. The title of his presentation is: '2050: The Year We Completed Our Urban Water Transformation'. There will be a panel discussion on what water protective/conserving initiatives local governments and water districts are doing to prepare for 2050. In addition, there will be for the first time at the General Assembly caucuses of jurisdictions (small cities and towns; older suburbs and larger cities) to discuss the common challenges, opportunities and relevant best practices. The Business meeting will start at 6:00 pm which includes a vote on ABAG's 2015-2016 Budget and workplan.

Bay Area Regional Prosperity Plan - Capstone Conference -- Monday, April 13, 2015 at 12:30 PM **Oakland Asian Cultural Center** 388 Ninth St, Ste 290 Oakland, CA 94607

The Regional Prosperity Plan (RPP) has been a 3 year process funded by HUD to refine and implement a regional growth strategy with a focus on low-income residents who are not participating in the wealth of the region. Join local residents, elected leaders, community-based organizations, labor unions, regional planning agencies, community colleges, workforce development boards, economic development professionals, grant making foundations, transportation and housing advocates in plenary sessions, workshops and poster exhibits.

Please direct questions to Pat Eklund, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Novato (phone: 415-883-9116; email: peklund@novato.org or pateklund@comcast.net)
