



# CITY OF SAUSALITO

Steven Woodside, Mayor

Chris Zapata, City Manager

Date: May 20, 2026

Via Email: [MCCMCSecretary@mccmc.org](mailto:MCCMCSecretary@mccmc.org)

Rebecca Vaughn, MCCMC Secretary  
Marin County City Selection Committee

**Re: Letter of Interest —  
ABAG Executive Board Representative or Alternate Representative**

Dear Ms. Vaughn and Members of the City Selection Committee:

I write to express my interest in being considered for appointment as either the Representative or the Alternate Representative to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Executive Board for the two-year term running from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028.

I am currently completing my second term on the Sausalito City Council and have spent over thirty years practicing municipal law including housing law and land use. Over the last five years, I have lectured statewide on housing and homelessness issues, and I served for eight years as a Sausalito Planning Commissioner before joining the Council. In that time, I have assisted Sausalito in preparing three housing elements, all of which were submitted on time and certified by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

I am not new to ABAG. From 2018 to 2020, I served as the alternate to Councilmember Pat Eklund on the ABAG Executive Board. During that period, in 2019, I was appointed to the ABAG/MTC Housing Legislative Working Group, where I helped evaluate pending housing legislation through the lens of ensuring no single Marin County city is overburdened by inequitable mandates.

My interest in returning to the ABAG Executive Board is driven by several pressing policy concerns that I believe require experienced, pragmatic representation from Marin County.

First, I am committed to advocating for accurate and equitable Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) methodology. Sausalito's own RHNA numbers, for example, were calculated in part on the basis of unbuildable land area — including underwater streets and land owned by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area — which inflated the city's allocation unfairly. I would bring this firsthand experience to bear in urging methodological refinements that reflect ground-truth conditions in small communities across our county.

Second, I am a strong advocate for ensuring that limited transit infrastructure serving small towns — such as the ferry landings in Tiburon and Sausalito — is not mischaracterized as a "transit hub" for purposes of imposing heightened housing production requirements. Thoughtful, context-sensitive transit designations are essential if regional housing policy is to retain credibility and fairness.



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Third, in light of the recent state audit report critical of HCD's administration of housing law, I believe ABAG needs representatives who can work constructively with both MTC and the State to address those findings and chart a productive path forward. The State Auditor not only found flaws in the State's housing needs assessments, but also was critical of HCD's poor track record providing guidance to cities. I would urge ABAG to be an advocate for change in these areas of critical importance to cities. My background as a practicing municipal attorney and my prior service on the Housing Legislative Working Group uniquely position me to serve as that kind of practical collaborator.

I am honored to put my name forward and would welcome the opportunity to serve the cities and towns of Marin County in this capacity. I am available to address the Committee at its meeting on May 27, 2026.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joan Cox".

Joan Cox  
Councilmember  
City of Sausalito  
415-754-5100  
[jcox@sausalito.gov](mailto:jcox@sausalito.gov)

cc: Steven Woodside, Mayor