



January - February Update

President Rabbitt and Vice President Scharff Installed and Thank You Given to Immediate Past President Pierce

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) installed Sonoma County Supervisor David Rabbitt as its new president and swore in Palo Alto Councilmember Greg Scharff to serve as the regional planning agency and council of governments' new vice president. Both will serve two-year terms extending to January 2020.

Rabbitt, who had served two consecutive terms as ABAG Vice President, replaces outgoing two-term president Julie Pierce, who continues to serve as a member of the ABAG Executive Board and the Clayton City Council. "Julie has done an incredible job of marshaling scores of local governments big and small into a unified team eager to tackle the housing challenges and other cross-jurisdictional issues that have been magnified by the Bay Area's current wave of prosperity," noted Rabbitt. "These are longstanding challenges that will continue even as our economic growth inevitably begins to slow. I am honored and humbled to accept the responsibility of sustaining this cooperative regional spirit in the years to come."

President Rabbitt brings a history of public service to the regional leadership position. He was first elected to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in 2010, after having previously served as Vice Mayor of Petaluma and as a member of the Petaluma City Council. In addition to serving as a Sonoma County representative on the ABAG Executive Board, Rabbitt is currently serving on the State of California Seismic Safety Commission, representing local governments. He also has served on the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District Board of Directors; the San Francisco Bay Water Emergency Transit Authority (WETA)'s Community Advisory Board; the North Bay Water Reuse Authority; and the Sonoma County Employee Retirement Association. He also has spent years as a baseball and soccer coach, and as a board member for both the Sonoma County Alliance Soccer Club and the Petaluma National Little League. Supervisor Rabbitt works as an architect, earning his degree at the University of Oregon. He lives in Petaluma with his wife Jane and three children.

New ABAG Vice President Greg Scharff is an attorney who has lived in Palo Alto since 1988. He was first elected to the Palo Alto City Council in 2009 and has served on the Santa Clara County Cities Association since 2011. Scharff earned a B.A. degree with honors from Bowdoin College in Maine and his J.D. degree at the Columbia University School of Law.



"The Bay Link," A Joint Daily Blog from ABAG and MTC Launched

Site Will Provide News, Views and Analysis on Topics of Regional Interest



MTC and ABAG are excited to announce the launch of the [The Bay Link](#), a joint blog that will provide news, views and analysis on topics of regional interest, including housing, land use, transportation, economic development, social equity, the environment, sustainability, climate change and resilience.

Consider The Bay Link the latest in the agencies' ongoing efforts to "Be Regionable." Readers will find [links to the day's most interesting headline](#); [MTC and ABAG's Executive Director's Map of the Month](#); [video updates on major regional projects and initiatives](#); [the latest online articles, studies and reports curated by the MTC-ABAG Library](#); [tips on what's on the agencies' meeting agendas](#); and round-ups of major MTC Commission and ABAG Executive Board actions.

Below is a sampling of recent posts to help orient new visitors to the site:

Housing and the Economy

- [Record Low Unemployment Across \(Much of\) the Bay Area, and the Delicate Policy Dance That Follows](#)
- [Regional Economic Divergence and the Conundrums of Prosperity; ABAG's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#)
- [CASA: Drafting a Blueprint for a Better Bay Area](#)

Transportation Funding, Policy and Research

- [New BART Train Cars Are Rolling into Service](#)
- [MTC Approves \\$386 Million for 180 Projects Across the Region Through the OBAG 2 County Program](#)
- [Participatory Budgeting: A Proposed MTC Pilot Project and a Brief Lit Review \(link is external\)](#)
- [The End of the Automotive Era?](#)

Resilience and the Environment

- [San Francisco Estuary Partnership Newsletter, Bay Area Water Trail Maps Now Available](#)
- [Resilient By Design | Bay Area Challenge: 10 Teams, 32 Ideas to Address Climate Change](#)

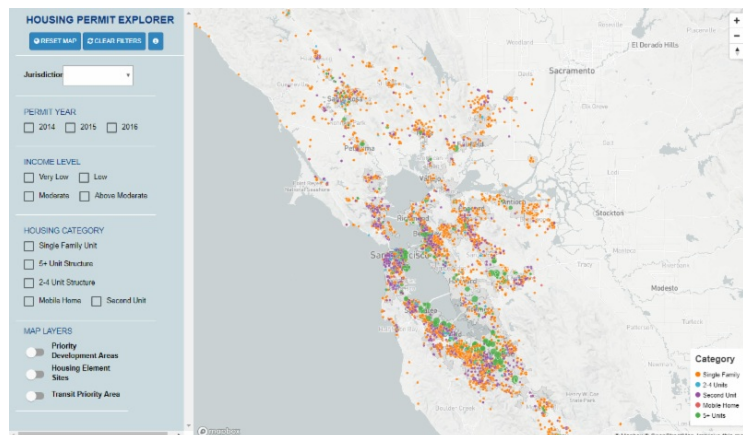
Agency News

- ["The Nobility of Public Service" – MTC Commissioners Honor the Late San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee](#)
- [Honors, Awards and Deals of the Year - Oh My! 2017 in Review](#)

Readers may comment on individual posts or send a message to blog@bayareametro.gov for general inquiries.

New Online Housing Policy and Data Explorer

Housing is a significant issue for the San Francisco Bay Area. A new online housing data portal is now available to easily access Bay Area housing permit activity and data about local housing policies adoption. Visit housing.abag.ca.gov to see how many housing building permits have been issued and the housing policies adopted in the 101 cities and towns and nine counties of the Bay Area.



Housing Permit Activity

The data portal maps all permits issued from 2014 to 2016. The permit explorer allows users to filter data by the permit issue year, affordability level, and housing type (single-family, multi-family, Accessory Dwelling Unit, etc.). Users can view these details for each new development. The explorer also allows users to see developments in relation to specific identified areas, including Priority Development Areas (PDAs), Transit Priority Areas (TPAs), and Housing Element Opportunity Sites. Housing Element Opportunity Sites are identified by cities, towns, and counties during the Housing Element update process.

Housing Policy Directory and Toolkit

Users of the data portal will be able to see at a glance which Bay Area jurisdictions that responded to the survey have adopted a particular policy and be able to easily access more details about different policy options, including links to a toolkit of best practices and model ordinances. The purpose of the policy directory and toolkit is to facilitate regional information sharing that helps jurisdictions better address their communities' housing needs.

Proposed Plan Bay Area Draft Amendments Released for Public Comment - Due February 21, 2018

ABAG and MTC released proposed draft amendments on January 22, 2018 to the long-range regional transportation and land use plan known as Plan Bay Area 2040 and to the 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that would modify the scope and projected cost of the planned U.S. Highway 101 Managed Lanes Project in San Mateo County. MTC and ABAG invite Bay Area residents to comment on the draft amendments. Comments must be received no later than Wednesday, February, 21, 2018.



Additional information is available at <https://mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/regional-agencies-invite-public-comment-planned-us-101-upgrades-peninsula-take>.

Interested residents may go to planbayarea.org/draft-amendment and click on the links in the "Related Documents" box to review the proposed draft amendments and other pertinent materials. Written comments may be addressed to MTC-ABAG Project Manager Adam Noelting at 375 Beale Street, Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94015. Comments also may be sent via e-mail to info@planbayarea.org or by fax at 415.536.9800.

Berkeley Energy Assurance Transformation Microgrid Project

The City of Berkeley, with partners including ABAG and the Bay Area Regional Energy (BayREN program) are collaborating to develop an innovative, scalable and replicable clean energy

microgrid model that other communities can learn from and leverage to advance energy reliability for the public good. Funded by a California Energy Commission EPIC grant, the Berkeley Energy Assurance Transformation (BEAT) Microgrid Project aims to provide renewable power and share energy across several downtown city facilities during normal operations, and provide clean backup power to critical facilities in the event of a power outage.



The project team has conducted a comprehensive technical, regulatory, and financial feasibility analysis to identify barriers and recommend solutions to accelerate advancement of multi-facility clean energy microgrids throughout the State and beyond. These foundational analyses have guided the development of a shovel-ready microgrid design.

The preliminary microgrid design consists of solar power generation, battery energy storage and interconnected smart-demand response technologies that reduce peak energy usage every day and provide clean back-up power to curb dependence on dirty diesel generators when there is a power outage. Once the feasibility analysis and design phase is complete, the City will pursue grant and other funding opportunities to build and install the new system.

For more information, visit the City of Berkeley website:
www.cityofberkeley.info/microgrid

New BayREN Program Video Now Available

Learn more about the BayREN program! A recent video describes the the energy-saving options for homeowners.



Agencies Invite Survey Participants - Share with Your Residents

Do you or your community want better connections with the agency that plans for the future of our road, highway and transit networks? The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) invite the public to take a short survey about the best way to reach out for comments and ideas.



MTC/ABAG recently released an online [survey](#) to get input from the public, partner agencies and others as we prepare our next public participation plan (PPP). The survey is being conducted in [Spanish](#) and [Chinese](#) as well as English. Please share these surveys with your residents.

MTC updates its PPP approximately every four years; and the survey is one of several ways to gather information about how to improve the plan. State and federal laws require MTC and other metropolitan planning organizations to adopt participation plans to give more people opportunities to be involved in the transportation planning process. MTC's current [Public Participation Plan](#) was adopted in 2015 and informs interested residents how to engage in the wide range of MTC's planning and funding activities. Appendix A to the Public Participation Plan highlights planning and decision milestones, and public engagement opportunities, for Plan Bay Area 2040 — the region's current long-range transportation and land-use blueprint.

An updated PPP — to be released for public comment this spring — will highlight planning and decision milestones, along with public engagement opportunities, for the next update to Plan Bay Area 2014. MTC is slated to adopt an updated PPP in June 2018.

ABAG Meetings and Events Calendar

Wednesday, February 7

Regional Planning Committee, 1:00 p.m.

Yerba Buena Room, Bay Area Metro Center, 375 Beale Street, San Francisco

Wednesday, February 21

ABAG POWER Executive Committee, 11:00 a.m.

Tamalpais CR, 7th Fl, Bay Area Metro Center, 375 Beale Street, San Francisco

Thursday, May 31 -- SAVE THE DATE

ABAG General Assembly, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Yerba Buena Room, Bay Area Metro Center, 375 Beale Street, San Francisco

Check the ABAG [Meetings and Agenda](#) and the [ABAG Calendar](#) for upcoming meeting information.