MEMO

Date: March 21, 2013

To: ABAG Executive Board

From: Danielle Hutchings Mieler, Earthquake and Hazards Program Coordinator

Subject: Bay Area Regional Disaster Resilience Action Plan Initiative

Summary of Resilience Initiative

The San Francisco Bay Area has a large earthquake in its future which will heavily impact some areas of our region. We must be resilient to natural disasters—able to absorb their impact, bounce back from their effects, and adapt to changing conditions creatively. It is no longer enough to respond to disasters when they occur and rebuild when they impact us; we must incorporate disaster resilience into our long-range community plans.

To address the natural hazards in our future ABAG's Resilience Initiative, in conjunction with Bay Area cities and counties, and a wide range community partners, has worked to understand the capacity of the region to undertake a coordinated regional recovery process. Through a series of workshops and interviews, stakeholders identified priority actions that can improve the region's resilience to natural disasters and speed our post-event recovery and ABAG's Administrative Committee determined some very high and high priorities for implementation. The focus of the actions is those pre-event recovery activities that can be taken at regional and local levels.

Initiative Outcomes

The outcome of this initiative is a series of papers which assess the Bay Area's regional recovery capacity, including:

- Issue papers identifying recovery and resilience issues for the region on governance, housing, infrastructure, and economy and business.
- An action plan prioritizing actions that can be taken by the region and local governments to improve our regional recovery capacity around the four topic areas of governance, housing, infrastructure and the economy.

Proposed Priorities for Implementation

The ABAG Administrative Committee determined the following draft very high and high priorities for the Implementation Phase of the Resilience Initiative with staff input. The related Resilience Initiative strategy is referenced and secured project funding is noted.

Very High Priority

1. (Action G-5) Develop findings and an ordinance package on recovery for local jurisdictions to implement.

High Priority

2. (Action H-6, H-9) Establish affordable financing mechanisms to facilitate seismic mitigation of multi-family residential properties vulnerable to damage in earthquakes, and increase the number of retrofitted single-family homes by providing financial incentives for homeowners to retrofit
3. (Action G-5) Create an information gathering system and clearinghouse at the regional level to collect damage information from local governments and special districts, consolidated, and utilized to help develop a post-disaster regional recovery plan.
4. (Action H-2) Identify a framework for siting of temporary housing after a disaster that facilitates permanent housing recovery.
5. (Action H-3) Develop a regional framework for utilizing FEMA post-disaster housing subsidies to build permanent housing that aligns with the PDA framework.

Success in implementing these priorities will depend on strong relationships with partner agencies and organizations. Staff will develop a plan for strengthening relationships with local, regional, state and federal partners with important roles in this work, including the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA), and FEMA.

Next Steps

In the coming months staff will actively pursue several of these priorities as follows:

1. (Action G-5) *Sample ordinance package:* Efforts to develop an ordinance package for local governments are underway. Staff proposes the following approach for this effort.
   a. Gather existing recovery and resilience ordinances and best practices from Bay Area cities.
   b. Meet with select individual cities to better understand their needs, the support ABAG can provide, identify barriers to implementation, and solutions to address those barriers.
   c. Vet the toolkit with local government partners
   d. Vet the toolkit with disaster recovery professionals to identify additional needed ordinances that should developed future phases of the project
   e. The end result will be an online toolkit of sample ordinances in Word format to be downloaded and edited, accompanied by fact sheets that include information about the purpose of the ordinance, why it is needed, guidelines for implementation, and some case studies highlighting the success or challenges cities have had implementing specific ordinances.
2. (Action G-5) *Information gathering system and clearinghouse:* Staff will meet with CalEMA to better understand how post-disaster damage assessments are performed in California and how that information is collected and transmitted to the State Emergency Operations Center. Staff will also examine the potential to gather recovery managers from local cities and counties to be trained in FEMA best practices for performing damage assessments.
3. Staff will organize meetings with appropriate officials at CalEMA, FEMA, UASI and other organizations to share the findings of the Resilience Initiative and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Recommended Actions

- Adopt the Resilience Initiative Policy Papers and Action Plan
- Refer the Resilience Initiative Implementation Phase to the Regional Planning Committee

Attachments

(1) Bay Area Regional Disaster Resilience Initiative Policy Papers and Action Plan