



Date: November 27, 2013

To: ABAG Executive Board

From: Miriam Chion, Planning & Research Director

Subject: **Updates on Plan Bay Area 2017**

The Bay Area must complete its second Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in 2017. Regional agency staff has taken initial steps to outline the process and timeline for completing the second SCS as well as involving local jurisdictions, stakeholders and ABAG Delegates very early in the process.

1. Moving from SCS Implementation to Plan Bay Area 2017

The attached document shows the proposed timeline for Plan Bay Area 2017. The scope and timing of the tasks will be informed by input from cities and stakeholders and future discussions at the ABAG Regional Planning Committee and ABAG Executive Board, as well as the self-assessment of the previous effort and advice from the Strategic Growth Council (see below). At this point, work on the next SCS, including coordination with local jurisdictions and background analysis, is expected to kick off in 2015. The tasks for *Plan Bay Area Implementation* (2014) and the *State of the Region Report* (2015) relate to the adopted Plan Bay Area, while the remaining tasks relate to Plan Bay Area 2017.

2. Local and State Input from the Initial Sustainable Communities Strategies

The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) is working with Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) throughout California on self-assessments of the first round of Sustainable Communities Strategies. By summer 2014, the SGC plans to release a report on lessons learned and suggested improvements for the second round of SCS development. In the Bay Area, ABAG and MTC will be conducting a similar evaluation process in preparation for work on Plan Bay Area 2017.

3. ABAG Delegate Engagement

Many of the elected officials who are ABAG Delegates have already expressed an interest in being more involved in the next Plan Bay Area process. ABAG staff has begun to reach out to the Delegates to provide more information about ABAG and the key principles embodied in Plan

Bay Area, in an effort to improve communication between regional agencies and local communities. Staff recently met with the Delegates in San Mateo County and is scheduling meetings with the Delegates in the other eight counties. The goal is to continue regular meetings with Delegates throughout the process for developing the next Plan Bay Area.

Attendees at our recent San Mateo Delegate meeting shared a number of helpful questions and comments with staff including:

- *ABAG can help member cities with networking – with each other, state agencies (e.g., HCD) and nonprofits that can help them build parks and housing or provide services.*
- *Want to understand what “CEQA entitlement efficiency” means, how a city qualifies for it and if it is truly a local option (or can developers force jurisdictions to adopt it).*
- *Want to know how to create new PCAs and PDAs now that Plan Bay Area has been adopted and what kind of resources and guidance are available to help them do so.*

They expressed interest in using the ABAG General Assembly for this kind of small group discussion, as well as including an ABAG 101 beginners track and a mobile device Survey Monkey to solicit feedback. Overall the Delegates were enthusiastic about increased communication/coordination with ABAG and suggested we get together quarterly and that ABAG staff do a similar presentation at a San Mateo City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) retreat.

Discussion Questions

Staff is seeking the Board’s feedback on what they’re hearing regarding the challenges and opportunities their communities are facing as they implement Plan Bay Area and what kinds of tools and assistance would be most helpful at this time. What kinds of programs, advocacy, and networking would make a difference?

We also know that it is not too soon to begin discussing preparation for the next Plan Bay Area. What additional issues would you like to see staff address as we seek to improve the next round of SCS planning as proposed in the abovementioned timeline for Plan Bay Area 2017? What additional issues, priorities, and performance measures should staff be identifying and researching now to help your local jurisdictions prepare for the next Plan Bay Area?