

# ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

Representing City and County Governments of the San Francisco Bay Area



ABAG

Date: February 23, 2015  
To: ABAG Administrative Committee  
From: Ezra Rapport, Executive Director  
Subject: **Resilience Program 2015 projects in process**

The Resilience Program is working on a number of different projects that will result in products in 2015.

## Regional Resilience Plan

With funding from FEMA, ABAG and BCDC staff will support local governments in planning for existing natural hazards and preparing for future hazards due to climate change by creating a process that will support **update and development of local hazard mitigation and climate adaptation plans**. This process is timely since many local hazard mitigation plans will expire in 2016.

<http://resilience.abag.ca.gov/projects/2016-mitigation-adaptation-plans/>

To assist communities updating or developing hazard mitigation plans, ABAG and BCDC will:

- Present a series of workshops to help local plan leaders in the development of their plan and provide a forum for interaction with staff from neighboring jurisdictions, subject matter experts, and plan reviewers;
- Create a plan development “roadmap” that provides guidance for jurisdictions on the timing and focus areas for local planning team meetings;
- Provide an OpenData website with maps, data, and tools for community-specific hazard and risk analysis that jurisdictions can download to use for their own hazard analysis;
- Compile mitigation and adaptation strategies in a compendium with implementation guidelines for jurisdictions to select from, as locally appropriate;
- Offer specialized one-on-one technical assistance for plan development.

ABAG will be further supporting implementation of identified resilience needs by working with the East Bay Corridor cities to assist with the development and implementation of mitigation strategies and resilience policies and actions at the local level. In future years, staff will provide similar support to other sub-regions as funding allows. <http://resilience.abag.ca.gov/projects/local-policy-implementation-assistance/>

This technical work will be supported by policy level work to implement the policies promoted at the Loma Prieta 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium and adopted by ABAG’s Executive Board in January 2015. These policies include promoting standards for the evaluation, identification and retrofit of seismically unsafe soft-story apartment buildings, developing financial incentive programs to support this work, improving building code standards to achieve more acceptable post-earthquake livability standards, and promoting development of a regional lifelines council to examine disruption risks to regional utility systems and develop a regional strategy to foster lifeline resilience. <http://www.lomaprieta25.com/policy-actions/>

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## Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities

The Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) program recently selected three Bay Area cities – Oakland, Berkeley and San Francisco – as resilient cities. This was the only instance where several cities were selected from one region, giving recognition to the interconnectedness and collaboration among Bay Area cities. With funding from Rockefeller, ABAG will serve as a hub to leverage the 100RC investment made in the Bay Area and support current planning to enhance regional resilience. ABAG will extract lessons learned and best practices developed within the three Rockefeller cities to all Bay Area cities.

## Oakland Soft-Story

For over six years ABAG staff has worked with the City of Oakland to identify and assess earthquake vulnerable soft-story apartment buildings within the City. Over the past 12 months, this effort has really taken hold with a strong multi-agency Oakland staff team. ABAG staff is advising the team on program and policy development for mandatory soft-story retrofits. An ordinance is expected to be presented to Council in late spring. <http://resilience.abag.ca.gov/projects/oakland-soft-story/>

## Housing and Community Risk

ABAG staff worked closely with BCDC with funding from USGS, EPA, SGC and FEMA to help the region meet its smart growth, resilience, sustainability, prosperity, and equity goals by developing strategies to strengthen existing housing and communities and plan smartly for future housing. Staff has developed a map of locations in the region where high hazards, vulnerable housing, and vulnerable populations intersect and has developed a suite of strategies to guide development and retrofit of existing housing. The full report and strategies will be available early this year.

<http://resilience.abag.ca.gov/projects/housing-and-community-risk/>

## Infrastructure Vulnerabilities

In January 2015, staff published a comprehensive report of the region's infrastructure and its vulnerability to future earthquake. The project maps regional airports, transportation (highways & passenger rail), fuel, electricity, and water systems, and highlights their interaction with seismic hazards. The study illustrates the potential consequences of system damage. The key findings warrant keen attention from local, regional, and state actors to understand the regional impacts of damage to infrastructure systems and the interactions among systems. [http://resilience.abag.ca.gov/projects/transportation\\_utilities\\_2014](http://resilience.abag.ca.gov/projects/transportation_utilities_2014)