



Date: January 23, 2015  
To: Regional Planning Committee  
From: Miriam Chion, ABAG Planning & Research Director  
Subject: Overview Session February 4, 2015

Welcome to 2015, this should be a substantial year to discuss the various research and implementation efforts. We have several reports scheduled for release this year including the State of the Region Report, Housing and Community Risk Assessment, Placemaking in the Bay Area, among others. We will be reviewing new PDAs and PCAs by the summer and the regional forecast this fall.

The main focus of our December meeting was the Placemaking Initiative workshop, which was a lively session where we discussed the design of good places through community participation. The Committee approved the inclusion of placemaking in Plan Bay Area and requested staff to bring a report for discussion to the Executive Board. This report will include input from the Regional Planning Committee and local jurisdictions.

At the October meeting the Regional Planning Committee recommended that the ABAG Executive Board approve the Loma Prieta 25 Conference policies and the Priority Development Area (PDA) Criteria. At its January meeting, the Board approved the Loma Prieta policies. The Board requested additional information on the PDA transit criteria before approval. ABAG and MTC staff will make a presentation on the half-mile transit criteria at the Joint ABAG Administrative Committee/MTC Planning Committee in February. ABAG staff will bring the PDA Criteria back to the Board in March.

At our upcoming February meeting we will elect the vice-chair of our Regional Planning Committee. We thank Anu Natarajan for her work as vice-chair over the past year. Anu will continue to support our Committee as a representative of economic development stakeholders.

The topics for February are entitlement efficiency and housing data and research. The entitlement efficiency presentation and panel was prepared in response to the multiple challenges of getting projects built that have been mentioned by our local planning staff and directors and developers. ABAG staff in collaboration with the State Office of Planning and Research, planning directors, and developers will provide an overview of those challenges as well as potential opportunities to support entitlement efficiencies in the approval of PDA projects. The housing data and research presentation will cover the

various databases on housing projects and policies built developed based on information from local jurisdictions.

### **Ongoing efforts**

- The ***State of the Region*** report will be released at a conference at ABAG on March 6, 8 am to noon.
- The ABAG ***Growing Smarter Together Awards*** Program submittal deadline for 2015 is February 10. If your city, town or county has a program, project or elected official that demonstrates a significant commitment to the development of sustainable communities, please consider sending an application. ([http://www.abag.ca.gov/smarter/2015/call\\_for\\_entries.pdf](http://www.abag.ca.gov/smarter/2015/call_for_entries.pdf))
- ABAG is inviting local jurisdictions to participate in a ***Resilience Action Implementation project***. ABAG staff will assist with the development and implementation of resilience policies and actions at the local level (i.e. soft-story retrofit program, pre-disaster recovery ordinance). Please contact Danielle Hutchings Mieler (DanielleM@abag.ca.gov) if you are interested.
- We are receiving ***PDA and PCA revisions and designations*** until May 2015.