

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter – Auditorium

101 8th Street, Oakland, California

August 3, 2011

Members Present:

Ronit Bryant, Councilmember, City of Mountain View
Paul Campos, Sr. Vice President of Government Affairs, BIA Bay Area
Dave Cortese, Supervisor, County of Santa Clara/RPC Chair
Pat Eklund, Councilmember, City of Novato
Mark Green, Mayor, City of Union City/ABAG President
Scott Haggerty, Supervisor, County of Alameda
John Holtzclaw, Sierra Club
Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez, Director of Government Affairs, City of San Francisco
Connie Galambos Malloy, Director of Programs, Urban Habitat
Nate Miley, Supervisor, County of Alameda
Nancy Nadel, Councilmember, City of Oakland
Julie Pierce, Vice Mayor, City of Clayton
Laurel Prevetti, Bay Area Planning Directors Association (BAPDA)
Harry Price, Mayor, City of Fairfield
A. Sepi Richardson, Councilmember, City of Brisbane/RPC Vice Chair
Mark Ross, Councilmember, City of Martinez
Pixie Hayward Schickele, California Teachers Association
Carol Severin, EBRPD Board of Directors
Jim Spering, Supervisor, County of Solano
Egon Terplan, Regional Planning Director, SPUR
Gayle Uilkema, Supervisor, County of Contra Costa

Members Absent:

Susan Adams, Supervisor, County of Marin, ABAG Vice President
Andy Barnes, Policy Chair, Urban Land Institute
Patricia Boyle, Bay Area League of Women Voters
Shiloh Ballard, Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Valerie Brown, Supervisor, County of Sonoma
Diane Dillon, Supervisor, County of Napa
Jennifer Hosterman, Mayor, City of Pleasanton
Rose Jacobs Gibson, Supervisor, County of San Mateo/ABAG Immediate Past President
Janet Kennedy, Councilmember, City of Martinez
Mark Landman, Councilmember, City of Cotati
Jeremy Madsen, Executive Director, Greenbelt Alliance
Ross Mirkarimi, Supervisor, City and County of San Francisco
Andrew Michael, Bay Area Council
Anu Natarajan, Councilmember, City of Fremont
Linda Seifert, Supervisor, County of Solano
Beth Walukas, Alameda County Transportation Commission

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Staff Present:

Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director

Miriam Chion, ABAG Principal Planner

Danielle Hutchings, Program Coordinator, ABAG Earthquake & Hazards Program

Dayle Farina, ABAG Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order/Introductions

- Chair Cortese called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM.

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes for June 1, 2011 Meeting.

Approval of the minutes was moved by Committee Member Spering and seconded by Vice Chair Richardson.

Minutes of June 1, 2011, were approved as submitted.

4. Oral Reports/Comments

A. Committee Members

Committee Member Malloy introduced the new CEO of Urban Habitat, Allan Fernandez Smith, who will be appointed to serve on the Regional Planning Committee, pending approval of the appointment by the Executive Board, going forward.

B. Staff

There were no reports from staff.

5. ACTION: Regional Disaster Resilience Council

Danielle Hutchings, ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Program Coordinator, briefed the Committee on the approach to council development and sought recommendations and approval of additional Resilience Council members and the meeting schedule.

Committee Member Spering suggested that there be speakers who are experienced in previous disasters who can speak to things which may have been overlooked in their planning and recovery.

Committee Member Spering moved to approve the Staff recommendation to form a Resilience Council from RPC members, specifically each of the 9 counties, and added stakeholder members, which would meet once a quarter prior to the regular meeting of the Regional Planning Committee.

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The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Richardson.

Committee Member Eklund asked which agencies at the State and Federal level were being considered as resources for the council. She said that she has some recommendations. Ms. Eklund also recommended that the EPA make a presentation on how they are helping State and Federal agencies better prepare for emergencies; especially where there is an environmental impact.

Ms. Hutchings invited Committee Member Eklund's input. Ms. Hutchings listed many of the agencies with who she is in contact but encouraged additional suggestions from Committee Members.

Committee Member Eklund also raised awareness about a grant for which Cal EPA is applying from the US EPA to develop a system where State and local agencies can share data to help with emergency preparedness and recovery.

Committee Member Terplan asked for clarification on the Staff recommendation; Is the recommendation:

A. To extend the RPC meeting to start it at noon, spend an hour on this issue, every-two-months and then cover the rest of the RPC business for the remaining time.

OR

B. To create the sub-committee for the first hour and those who chose can come for the subcommittee the rest of the RPC to arrive at the usual 1:00 meeting time.

Mr. Kirkey & Ms. Hutchings responded that the Staff recommendation is option B but not creating a subcommittee but including the entire RPC along with some additional members.

Committee Member Terplan asked if sub-regional medical centers will be invited in addition to the Alameda County Medical Center (ACMC). If not, why this one instead of some others.

Ms. Hutchings responded that the ACMC was selected simply due to their proximity to the Hayward Fault.

Committee Member Holtzclaw asked why a fire department was not included as a member in the Resilience Council.

Ms. Hutchings responded that this is really a policy committee and that they are looking for policy makers for this body. However, fire departments would certainly be included as Stakeholders in this process.

Committee Member Prevetti commented that the one thing lost by not going with Option 1 is the flexibility to add on more stakeholders as the need arises.

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Ms. Hutchings responded that we would be adding the 4 members only for the Resilience Council portion of the meeting; the first hour. Additional stakeholders could be added in the future.

Chair Cortese added that the outreach will need to include the invitation for a broader audience for public comment, etc.

Committee Member Malloy asked if there is an expectation that all of the RPC will participate in the Resilience Council. Ms. Hutchings clarified that Staff hoped that all of the RPC members would participate in this effort.

The motion carried.

6. INFORMATION: Sustainable Communities Strategy – Alternative Scenario Concepts.

Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director presented the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Alternative Scenario concepts approved by the ABAG Executive Board and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and how social equity would be integrated into the Alternatives.

Committee Member Green asked if Staff is confident that the release will be in front of this Committee in December 2011.

Mr. Kirkey responded that the SCS development schedule indicated that the scenarios could come before the RPC in December. Therefore when the RPC meets, comments will be welcome with transportation scenarios and performance assessment information presented along with the land use scenarios.

Mr. Green added that he believes it would be beneficial to have two meetings at which to add comments and input before the release of the Preferred Scenario in February.

Committee Member Green commented that the two million in additional population growth for the region seems like a heavy number.

Mr. Kirkey responded that there are a couple of pieces of data from which this information was calculated. One is the census data, which results in some reduction. The other piece, the forecasted information, needs to be a part of the preferred scenario. The last census shows that the State of California is now at about the national average in terms of population growth.

Committee Member Eklund commented that the schedule for the release of the Alternative Scenarios doesn't seem to allow much time for public participation.

Ms. Eklund also asked who has access to Base Camp. It doesn't seem that all Planning Directors are included in access to this tool.

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Committee Member Eklund referred to the last sentence in the Focused Growth Scenario; Is this intended for all cities or just for areas within PDAs?

Ms. Eklund also referred to the section on growth in the Outer Bay Area; it assumes that office parks would grow faster. Is this looking at cities without PDAs for increased density?

Relative to the question on the Focused Growth Scenario, Mr. Kirkey responded that this scenario directs growth primarily to the PDAs and Growth Opportunity Areas and the reference to 3-5 story buildings is in keeping with the type of developed envisioned in most of the local plans. He stated that this information is provided as an illustration and not to direct communities how to develop their cities. Relative to PDA and PDA-like areas; the Executive Board and the MTC Commission directed staff to identify areas that meet PDA criteria and distribute growth accordingly.

In response to the public participation question; Mr. Kirkey stated that MTC/ABAG Staff are developing public workshops in each of the nine counties that will take place after the release of the Alternative Scenarios. He indicated that staff was working to address concerns raised relative to the first round of public workshops held last spring.

Finally, in regard to Base Camp access, Mr. Kirkey said that any director level or senior planning staff member from any local jurisdiction is invited to participate in their respective county-level Base Camp.

Committee Member Eklund recommended getting a presentation, to this Committee, on projections from the Department of Finance. She stated that she would like them invited to the next RPC meeting.

Committee Member Campos agreed that the schedule for the Preferred Scenario is too aggressive. He added that we need a more reasonable land use forecast. Prior to the release of the Initial Vision Scenario (IVS) he requested during RAWG meetings that staff prepare a memo outlining the Federal reasonable requirements related to how the regional agencies are making the determining that the scenarios are reasonable. He feels it would be appropriate that staff prepare a memo on the reasonableness issue and what the formal guidance says and how the issue of the determination of a scenario is being prepared.

Mr. Campos would like to invite researchers from UC Davis and UC Irvine who have been working with the Air Resources Board on the Greenhouse Gas reduction related to the SCS State-wide.

Chair Cortese commented on the reasonableness issue, that it should be referred to ABAG and MTC to see if we're aligned with the regulatory issues. Perhaps a formal

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RFI would be in order. He asked that Staff follow-up on the academic research and get back to the Committee.

Committee Member Prevetti commented that the equity issue needs to run throughout the scenarios. Ms. Prevetti also requested getting household formation information with the August release of data. Ms. Prevetti also requested clarification as to whether the scenarios would assume the same land use assumptions relative to the control totals for housing and jobs.

Mr. Kirkey responded that Scenarios 3, 4, & 5 will assume the same control totals for housing and employment. Scenario 2 will assume the Regional Housing Need target adopted by the MTC/ABAG. This scenario will also assume a higher level of employment growth.

Chair Cortese brought to the attention of the Committee that ABAG has an open Legislative Committee and invited members to discuss legislation at that committee meeting.

Committee Member Richardson expressed concern over the aggressive schedule of the Alternative Scenarios.

Ms. Richardson also commented that the projection numbers from CCAG (City and County Association of Governments for San Mateo County) were high. They project housing to grow by 9%. She asked how the input from the Initial Vision Scenario was being utilized.

Mr. Kirkey responded that the input is being used to construct the three scenarios. Jurisdictions will see that their input was into the Scenarios, slated to be released in October.

In response to the aggressive schedule and the concern for time, Mr., Kirkey commented that the Sustainable Communities Strategy is adopted as part of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which is a major plan for the region including funding for the all of the modes of transportation. Staff is working to ensure that the RTP is adopted on time.

Committee Member Terplan raised the idea that perhaps there could be some kind of regional tax sharing that could provide incentives.

Mr. Terplan commented that if General Plans in the region are not showing sufficient capacity for housing growth, the information should be shared regionally with the NGO's which can act as advocate and can frame the issue in terms of economic competitiveness.

Mr. Terplan encouraged the use of numbers in the sub-regional maps, along with control totals.

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On the question of reasonableness; Mr. Terplan stated that SB 375 requires a reasonable forecast, but the scenarios don't have to be the forecast. He would like to make sure that the preferred scenario is the best vision for the region.

Committee Member Campos commented that he believes that is incorrect. The preferred scenario is the SCS, which is the land use assumptions and pattern on which the RTP is based. The SCS, at both Federal and SB 375 is subject to the reasonableness requirement.

Committee Member Sperring feels there are two tracks; We are going to adopt the SCS and the RTP. He stated that to a large extent the market will drive what the cities will do.

Chair Cortese would like to have staff provide an analysis on this issue.

Committee Member Terplan asked for clarification on how there might be an iteration between the two versions of the core concentration. (e.g., If we assume more housing growth in the region, could that also result in greater employment growth?)

Mr. Kirkey responded that staff and consultants are currently working on this issue. The short answer is yes.

Committee Member Malloy commended staff for their positive response to the social equity requests. Ms. Malloy also requested detailed information on the timeline, in September, so that they have ample time to respond with input from the communities. Mr. Kirkey responded that the release of the land-use component of the Alternative Scenarios would be in late August, which should provide ample time for input at the October meeting.

Committee Member Sperring asked for an explanation and definition of Social Equity, at the October meeting, to clarify how it is being applied to the scenarios. He would like this to be added to the October 5 agenda for discussion.

7. INFORMATION: Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Housing Methodology Concepts

Miriam Chion, ABAG Principal Planner presented the conceptual framework for the RHNA methodology for the 2015-2022 period, which has been developed by ABAG and MTC staff, with the assistance of the SCS Housing Methodology Committee (HMC).

Committee Member Eklund asked if the City of Novato can expect a response the a letter sent asking how the Sphere of Influence was determined in the last RHNA round.

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Ms. Chion responded that a reply is forthcoming.

Committee Member Green asked for clarification on the scores and what it means in the methodology.

Ms. Chion explained that, for example, a score of 5 in the past RHNA means a higher allocation because in the previous cycle the jurisdiction had a limited performance.

Committee Member Malloy referred to slide 4 and asked for clarification on the 70/30 split between the Sustainability and Fair Share components.

Ms. Chion explained how the Fair Share component fits into the Sustainability component of the methodology and is willing to further define it if needed.

ADJOURN:

Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on October 5, 2011

Submitted by:

Dayle Farina

Administrative Assistant