

Assembly Speaker Atkins Names Assemblymember Thurmond as Chair of the Select Committee on Bay Area Regional Planning

Assemblymember Tony Thurmond (D-15) has been named chair of the newly formed Select Committee on Regional Planning in the San Francisco Bay Area. The committee will address the planned merger of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). Assemblymember Thurmond also intends for the select committee to address other regional issues, including the lack of affordable housing; environmental issues, such as sea-level rise; strengthening the local economy; and improving public transportation systems.

Assemblymember Thurmond, stated, "We must take a regional approach to many of the issues facing Bay Area residents. The entire Bay Area is experiencing a significant homeless epidemic and there are hospitals that are in grave danger of shutting their doors, as has already happened to Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo. These facts tell me that if we don't take a regional approach to these issues, there is no way we can appropriately allocate resources to fix the problems."

Members of the select committee and a schedule of upcoming hearings will be announced shortly.

Assemblymember Tony Thurmond represents the 15th Assembly District, comprised of the cities of Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Hercules, Kensington, Piedmont, Pinole, Richmond, San Pablo, Tara Hills, and a portion of Oakland.

Come hear Assemblymember Thurmond discuss his ideas on the role of the new Committee that he Chairs on Bay Area Regional Planning, at the **Legislative Workshop on Wednesday, February 10, 2016**. The Workshop will take place at the Capitol Event Center in Sacramento.

Call 510/464-7986 or 510/464-7995, to R.S.V.P.

Integrated Regional Water Management Grant for Water Management Solutions Awarded

ABAG and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership recently received a \$41 million grant for implementation of Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM). Grant funds have been slated for projects benefiting the San Francisco Bay Area at a regional and local level.



IRWM is a collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale that increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. The fundamental principle of IRWM is that regional water managers are best suited and best positioned to manage water resources to meet regional needs.

Administered by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the program provides funding for projects that help local public agencies meet the long term water needs of the state, including the delivery of safe drinking water and the protection of water quality and the environment. Since 2010, IRWM has awarded over \$592 million for planning and implementation projects throughout the State.

For more information, please visit the San Francisco Estuary Partnership website at <http://www.sfestuary.org/> or the IRWM website at <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/p84implementation.cfm>.

San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habit Restoration Measure on June Ballot

On January 13, 2016, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority's Board unanimously voted to place a funding measure on the June 7, 2016 ballot in the nine-county Bay Area to generate funds to protect and restore the San Francisco Bay. The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority is a regional government agency charged with raising and allocating resources for the restoration, enhancement, protection, and enjoyment of wetlands and wildlife habitat in the San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline.



The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority authorized a parcel tax of \$12 per year to raise approximately \$25 million annually for twenty years with independent citizen oversight, audits, and all funds staying local. Through the parcel tax, revenue would be

allocated to projects in each of the San Francisco Bay Area's nine counties. Anticipated project types include ecosystem restoration, flood protection, and recreation enhancement designed to provide wetland habitat for wildlife and improve flood risk management. Grant funds would be allocated for projects to conduct restoration and enhancement of creek mouth habitats for birds, fish, and water quality, as well as flood protection in regionally significant watersheds.

The **Clean and Healthy Bay Ballot Measure** is designed to protect the San Francisco Bay for future generations by reducing trash, pollution and harmful toxins, improving water quality, restoring habitat for fish, birds and wildlife, protecting communities from floods, and increasing shoreline public access. Taking action now will ensure that we have the resources to prevent urban runoff from polluting the Bay, preserve critical habitat for fish and wildlife, enhance public access to open spaces, and protect homes and infrastructure from flooding.

For more information, visit the website at <http://sfbayrestore.org/> or contact the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority at info@sfbayrestore.org.

ABAG Awarded Grants to Boost Region-wide Resilience to Earthquakes, Fires, and Climate Change Impacts

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) was awarded \$1.6 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Rockefeller Foundation 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) for 2016 and 2017 to boost region wide investment in resilience and recovery from earthquakes, fires, climate change impacts and related natural disasters. These funds will leverage 2015 grants from FEMA for \$300,000, along with an \$86,000 U.S. Geological Survey grant, and a \$75,000 grant from the Sustainable Growth Council. "ABAG will have resources to help cities and counties improve housing resilience and work on the social and economic challenges associated with earthquakes, fires, and climate change impacts," says Ezra Rapport, ABAG Executive Director.

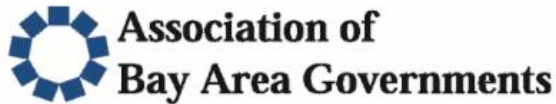
Key areas to be addressed through the grants include planning for safe sustainable housing, developing updated building codes, and supporting financial incentives for home-owners to retrofit. The focus of the Rockefeller grant is to ensure information exchange among the three cities that are part of Rockefeller's international 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) initiative and to establish a linkage between the 100RC cities (San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley) and all Bay Area cities. Program focuses are soft story building safety, energy assurance planning, and incentives for resilience policies.



A Drought Summit will be convened later this year. Grants will enable the development of new special studies on drought and urban wildland fire and risk in the Bay Area. ABAG will be heavily

involved in supporting sustainable and safe development tied in with the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SB 375).

Information on specific workshop and services for jurisdictions, as well as maps and tools for the public, will be available on the ABAG Resilience Program website at: resilience.abag.ca.gov. For more information about the 100 Resilient Cities program, visit the website at: www.100resilientcities.org.



Legislative Workshop

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Capitol Event Center/CSAC Conference Center
1020 11th Street, 2nd Floor, Sacramento

You are invited to attend the ABAG and CSAC Legislative Workshop. Legislators and agency leaders will brief attendees on bills and initiatives related to local governments, land use, housing, transportation, funding, financing mechanisms, disaster resilience, and environmental challenges from water to climate change.

Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins, Assemblymember Richard Gordon, Rules Committee, Chair, and Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, Chair of the Bay Area Regional Planning Committee, and other Legislative Committee Chairs, will speak at this informative workshop. Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear a presentation from Lisa Bates, Deputy Director, State Department of Housing and Community Development.

[View Agenda Here](#)

*You are invited to participate in the Reception that follows
at Ella Dining Room and Bar, 1131 K Street, Sacramento*

Heavy Hors d'oeuvres

5:00 - 7:00 pm

RSVP by Monday, February 1st

Halimah Anderson at 510/464-7986, halimaha@abag.ca.gov

or Leah Zippert at 510/464-7995, leahz@abag.ca.gov

Calling the Bay Area Home: Tackling the Affordable Housing and Displacement Challenge

Saturday, February 20, 2016, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Oakland Marriott City Center 1101 Broadway, Oakland (12th St. City Center BART)



You are invited to attend a half-day forum that will bring together community and business leaders, housing developers, elected officials and city planners for a timely and important dialogue on the role of Bay Area local governments and regional agencies, as well as state and federal government, in addressing skyrocketing housing costs and displacement of long-time residents.

To register, go to

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11im1pXR5KeuFR0UEI0t9msYtyhBpfhntJ-VwBsy1UCg/viewform>.

Meeting Calendar - February 2016

Regional Planning Committee

2/3 @ 12:30 p.m., MetroCenter, Auditorium

ABAG and CSAC Legislative Workshop

2/10 @ 2 p.m., 1020 11th Street, 2nd Floor, Sacramento

ABAG Administrative Committee

2/12 @ 10:30 a.m., ABAG Conference Room B

ABAG POWER Executive Committee

2/17 @ 12 noon, ABAG Conference Room B

Bay Area Regional Collaborative Governing Board/JPC

2/19 @ 10:00 a.m., MetroCenter, Auditorium

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority's Governing Board

2/24 @ 1:00 p.m., 1330 Broadway, 11th Floor Conference Room, Oakland

ABAG Administrative Committee and MTC Planning Committee

2/26 @ 10:00 a.m., ABAG Conference Room B

More information available on ABAG's website

