



Date: May 13, 2014

To: Regional Planning Committee

From: Miriam Chion, ABAG Planning & Research Director

Subject: Overview Session June 4, 2014

The upcoming Regional Planning Committee meeting will continue the discussion from our last meeting on the Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) revised criteria. We had a lively discussion on the various qualities of our PCAs and our efforts to protect our natural, agricultural, scenic and recreational resources as well as our ecological values and ecosystem functions in the region. Based on this discussion, staff has prepared a recommendation for the committee to approve revisions to the criteria and application process.

The second item on the agenda focuses on our communication efforts as we approach Plan Bay Area 2017. This is a preliminary outline of the elements we want to consider in preparing a communication strategy that facilitates constructive community and local input. We presented this at the ABAG Executive Board, where the discussion focused on engaging local elected officials and clear explanation of the tasks.

On the composition of the Regional Planning Committee, I am pleased to report that the ABAG Executive Board ratified the ABAG President's appointment of three new members to our Committee. They will bring important insights from local jurisdictions in Napa, issues and opportunities related to water resources, and public interest issues. The new members include:

- Mayor Jill Techel, City of Napa
- Dyan White, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Nancy Ianni, League of Women Voters of the Bay Area

Other relevant updates:

- PDA Planning Grants Approved: The ABAG Administrative Committee and MTC Planning Committee recommended that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission approve 25 projects for \$6.8 million. These will be added to the portfolio of projects in progress for which ABAG staff provide oversight and technical assistance.
- Housing Element Workshops: ABAG has partnered with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to provide office hours for jurisdictions seeking technical assistance as Housing Elements are being prepared in May, June and late summer. This is to improve clarity and certainty prior to entering the HCD review or public engagement.
- Regional Prosperity Consortium: Entering its third and last year, this effort will lead to completion of 43 HUD-funded studies and pilot projects. ABAG staff will synthesize

key findings of these independent works into a summary report for consideration of action by regional agencies and other consortium members.

We have tentatively scheduled the following topics for the upcoming meetings:

- August - Housing strategies, Regional Prosperity Plan (HUD Grant) Overview
- October - Resiliency efforts in the Bay Area
- December - Place-making in PDAs

The ABAG Administrative Committee may act on any item on this agenda.