

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

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March 18, 2021

Matt Maloney, Director of Regional Planning
Association of Bay Area Governments
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Matt Maloney,

RE: Review of ABAG Housing Element Data

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) housing element data. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) applauds ABAG for its tremendous effort to assist local governments in complying with the statutory requirements of Housing Element law. The housing element data prepared for ABAG members will provide an important tool in updating Housing Elements for all local governments in the region for the 6th Cycle Housing Element.

Housing Element law requires a quantification and analysis of existing housing needs. The ABAG housing element data addresses most of the requirements for quantification of existing and projected housing needs¹, including:

- population, employment trends and existing and projected housing needs for all income levels;
- household characteristics, including level of payment compared to ability to pay, housing characteristics, including overcrowding (e.g., existing households, existing extremely low-income households, total, lower and extremely low-income households overpaying, overcrowded households); and
- special housing needs (e.g., number of persons with disabilities, number of persons with developmental disabilities, elderly households by tenure, large households by tenure, farmworkers and female headed households);

HCD has reviewed the Housing Element Data and determined it meets statutory requirements for the quantification of existing and projected housing needs as described

¹ Local governments must still quantify persons experiencing homelessness, estimate the number of units in need of rehabilitation and replacement and list projects at-risk of converting to market rate uses.

above. The Housing Element data will not be subject to further HCD review as part of the Housing Element update process. However, local Housing Elements must still include or update the requisite analysis of this data as appropriate. For more information on analysis requirements, please see HCD's Building Blocks at <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/community-development/building-blocks/index.shtml>.

HCD appreciates the efforts of ABAG staff in making the data available to streamline the preparation and review of Housing Elements for local governments in the region. HCD particularly commends the efforts of Aksel Olsen, Senior Planner, Eli Kaplan, Regional Housing Policy Analyst, Somaya Abdelgany, Associate Regional Housing Planner, and Heather Peters, Principal Regional Housing Planner. HCD looks forward to working with ABAG and its members in the update of the Housing Elements. If you have any questions, please contact me at paul.mcdougall@hcd.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul McDougall", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul McDougall
Housing Policy Manager