

ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

Representing City and County Governments of the San Francisco Bay Area



ABAG

Date: February 27, 2014

To: Administrative Committee

From: Arrietta Chakos,
ABAG Policy Advisor

Subject: **Overview on ABAG's Resilience Planning Efforts**

ABAG has diverse planning, research and public services with great potential to improve the Bay Area's climate- and disaster-resilience. Given these resources, there are current opportunities to engage more directly in the policy development on community resilience and to more effectively partner with public and private stakeholders. The Earthquake and Hazards Program has evolved in the last two years into a sophisticated planning program with strengthened professional expertise and more regional visibility and presence. It's opportune to build on what has been done, and to take a more strategic approach with this accomplishment to support the resilience portfolio. The initiative's current projects include:

- Regional Housing Vulnerability Project examines how long-range community plans must address the hazards faced by existing and future housing. Project findings will help regional decision makers meet smart growth, resilience, sustainability, prosperity, and equity goals. By developing strategies to strengthen existing and future housing, Bay Area communities will have planning criteria to seamlessly incorporate resilience policy and application into building codes, zoning regulations and land use decisions.
- The Airport and Infrastructure Resilience Project is a comprehensive review of the role Bay Area airports play in long-term social, economic, and physical recovery from a disaster, given existing vulnerabilities, interdependencies on regional infrastructure, and capacity for functioning following a disaster. The study includes a preliminary assessment of regional utilities' disaster resilience & interdependence.
- The Resilient Shorelines Program is a program of collaborative projects undertaken by ABAG, BCDC and the Coastal Conservancy to develop strategies that address flood and seismic risks in the Bay Area to protect

existing and planned shoreline development, infrastructure and natural resources. The Resilient Shorelines team focuses on working with regional to integrate individual projects under common goals for effective adaptive application in communities.

Staff is successfully working with federal, national and regional philanthropic funders to cultivate stronger relationships and potential program funding. As well, ABAG is integrating with complementary regional and national resilience efforts: the Resilient Shorelines project, the JPC Climate Policy effort, The Rockefeller Foundation's Bay Area efforts; and the National Association of Counties and National Academies resilience initiatives. In the next month, staff will meet with the State Seismic Safety Commission, the California Earthquake Authority, along with the regional FEMA and HUD offices to strengthen its partnership network.

This year's work program includes plans to update the policy recommendations and implementation activities stemming from the from the 2013 Phase I Resilience Initiative (funded by the Department of Homeland Security) to mainstream resilience planning through existing avenues such as local General Plans, Housing and Safety Element updates, and through climate action plans. Staff is assembling more additions for ABAG's Local Government Toolkit through an upcoming project funded by the U.S. Geological Survey.

The 25th anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake in October will be an opportunity to focus public attention on the regional resilience that has been improved since 1989. ABAG staff is coordinating planning for a series of public commemorative events with many partner agencies and institutions. Staff anticipates this will offer a productive examination among the Bay Area cities, counties and regional agencies on protecting the region's communities and to forecast how to continue this resilience action through common planning and legislative agendas.

We hope the Committee will review these efforts and provide guidance on how to best implement policy improvements and program support for the next year. The region faces three major challenges: (1) development of useable knowledge on flood and earthquake hazards' risks; (2) institutional coordination across fragmented local, regional and state organizations for long term recovery; and, (3) development of understandable messages to engage local jurisdictions and the public-at-large to act on resilience-building.

Questions that have emerged in recent policy planning include:

- How can the region coordinate and prioritize sea level change and earthquake risks? How should ABAG engage with BCDC, MTC and the Coastal Conservancy to leverage mutual planning and resources?
- How should ABAG integrate water supply and issues of water uncertainty, energy assurance and resiliency to Plan Bay Area? What is ABAG's role in relation to other state and regional agencies? How to coordinate with JPC?

As staff works with the Committee's response to these questions, we will develop updates for ABAG's stakeholders and decision makers on policy application and program implementation in the coming year.

Attachment 1, Earthquake and Hazards Program

Attachment 2, Resilience Program 2014-2015 Grants Planning

Earthquake and Hazards Program: 2014 Projects' Overview with deliverables

Regional Resilience Initiative (September 2011 – ongoing)

The Phase I Resilience Initiative process included stakeholder workshops, a survey, and interviews with key regional resilience stakeholders and elected officials. The initiative culminated in mid-2013 with four targeted policy papers and an Action Agenda to guide future work in the region to build disaster- and climate resilience.

The Phase II Resilience Initiative is currently in its implementation phase. This phase is ongoing.

- Development of resilience policy, legislative and funding strategies
- Quarterly initiative status reports on 2014 implementation action items from the March 2013 committee agenda
- Participation in regional, state and federal resilience, hazards and disaster recovery policy initiatives
- Coordination of regional resilience planning with the Rockefeller 100RC Program

Existing Products:

- [Regional Resilience Initiative: Policy Agenda for Recovery \(2013\)](#)
- [Fall 2012 General Assembly Local Government Toolkit](#)

Housing and Community Risk (June 2013 – August 2014)

To increase regional resilience, long-range community plans must not only consider and plan for the hazards faced by existing housing, but future housing as well. The goal of this project is to help the region meet smart growth, resilience, sustainability, prosperity, and equity goals by developing strategies to strengthen existing housing and communities and plan smartly for future housing.

This project will be completed late summer in 2014.

- Vulnerability analysis incorporating housing and community vulnerability indicators developed in conjunction with our Advisory Committee
- Community vulnerability profiles for 3-5 Bay Area partner communities
- Three regional stakeholder charrettes
- Policy report and Action Plan for prioritizing housing resilience strategies for existing housing incorporating resilience strategies into the development of new housing
- Guidance documents for local jurisdictions for implementing resilience strategies, including potential funding sources

Partners: BCDC

Airport and Infrastructure Resilience (June 2012 – June 2014)

The Airport and Infrastructure Resilience Project seeks to gain a comprehensive understanding of the role Bay Area airports play in long-term social, economic, and physical recovery from a disaster, given their vulnerabilities, interdependencies on regional infrastructure, and capacity for functioning following a disaster.

This project will be completed in early summer 2014.

- Regional Infrastructure Vulnerability and Interdependencies study
- Focused case study of the Oakland Airport on specific infrastructure vulnerabilities and interdependencies due to seismic events and climate hazards
- Final project report integrating project findings

Existing Products:

- [Airport Liquefaction Susceptibility Analysis Report \(2013\)](#)
- [Role of Airports in Regional Disaster Response and Recovery \(2013\)](#)

Partners: BCDC

Oakland Soft-Story Building Safety Program, Phase II (October 2013—September 2014)

In 2008 Oakland surveyed multi-family buildings with five or more units; and, in 2009 the City Council passed an ordinance that required the owners of these buildings to complete a safety evaluation of ground floors in identified at-risk structures. Current efforts in place include project support for the City to develop safety program guidelines; legislative measures for implementation, and financing mechanisms to pilot retrofit in sample buildings.

- Support development of funding program for volunteer building owners to tap to provide incentive for building upgrades in up to ten Oakland sites
- Coordinate financing implementation with Prudential Financial, the potential funding conduit for up to \$1m in bond loan monies

Existing Product:

- [Soft-Story Housing Improvement Plan for the City of Oakland: Building Screening Phase \(2013\)](#)

Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (ongoing)

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) outlines a process which cities, counties, and special districts can follow to develop a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Development of this plan is a requirement for certain benefits from State Office of Emergency Services and FEMA. ABAG worked with local governments to develop a Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2012.

- Preliminary project scoping for next RHMP update
- Coordinate efforts with the FEMA IX program officers
- Link planning with the 2014 UASI Resilience & Recovery Project

Local Government Resilience Toolkit (2014—2015)

This toolkit is intended to establish an inventory of tools and best practices that can be implemented by local governments both before and after an earthquake to build local resilience. The tools are largely sample ordinances, many of which came from local jurisdictions around the Bay Area.

The outcome of the project is an ordinance package accompanied by fact sheets that include information about the purpose of the ordinance, why it is needed, guidelines for implementation, and case studies highlighting the success or challenges cities have had implementing specific ordinances. ABAG will work with internal legal counsel to generalize ordinance language to make it easily accessible to any jurisdiction. This toolkit is intended to provide a specific number of very concrete actions local governments can take to enhance their resilience.

This project will be completed in summer of 2015.

- Survey and interview questions and data collection tool to assess baseline of ordinance adoption across cities
- Draft outline of regional ordinances, case studies, and lessons learned
- Draft list of additional needed ordinances

	Climate Resilience	Infrastructure Resilience	Housing Resilience	Community Resilience
Research + Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing and Community Risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience Initiative Airport and Infrastructure Resilience Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience Initiative Housing and Community Risk Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience Initiative Housing and Community Risk Airport and Infrastructure Resilience Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing and Community Risk Local Government Resilience Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience Initiative Airport and Infrastructure Resilience Local Government Resilience Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience Initiative Housing and Community Risk Local Government Resilience Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience Initiative Housing and Community Risk Airport and Infrastructure Resilience Local Government Resilience Toolkit
Guidance Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing and Community Risk Local Government Resilience Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience Initiative Local Government Resilience Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience Initiative Housing and Community Risk Local Government Resilience Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience Initiative Housing and Community Risk Local Government Resilience Toolkit
Public Education			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oakland Soft-Story Building Safety Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oakland Soft-Story Building Safety Program
Local Government Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Resilience Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Local Government Resilience Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oakland Soft-Story Building Safety Program Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Local Government Resilience Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oakland Soft-Story Building Safety Program Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Local Government Resilience Toolkit
Information Clearinghouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing and Community Risk Local Government Resilience Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience Initiative Airport and Infrastructure Resilience Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Local Government Resilience Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience Initiative Housing and Community Risk Oakland Soft-Story Building Safety Program Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Local Government Resilience Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience Initiative Housing and Community Risk Airport and Infrastructure Resilience Oakland Soft-Story Building Safety Program Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Local Government Resilience Toolkit

Resilience Program 2014-2015 Grants Planning

