



Date: March 25, 2014

To: Regional Planning Committee

From: Miriam Chion, ABAG Planning & Research Director

Subject: Overview Session April 2, 2014

The upcoming Regional Planning Committee meeting focuses on the Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs). This is an important element of Plan Bay Area, parallel to the Priority Development Areas (PDAs). The overarching goal behind this session is to strengthen the regional efforts to protect our natural, agricultural, scenic and recreational resources as well as our ecological values and ecosystem functions in the region. The Regional Planning Committee and Executive Board requested that we revisit the existing criteria and the inventory of PCAs to better explain the qualities and importance of each area. Based on the existing wealth of information on natural resources and informed by several sessions with local jurisdictions and stakeholders, ABAG staff developed a proposal for the revised criteria and the process for the designation of PCAs. In addition to the staff presentation, the session will also include four guest speakers from leading organizations that will discuss the four proposed PCA designations: natural landscapes, agricultural lands, urban greening, and regional recreation.

On the composition of the Regional Planning Committee, I am pleased to report that the ABAG Executive Board gave its consent to the ABAG President's appointment of five new members to our Committee. They would bring important insights from their communities and areas of expertise to our committee deliberations. The new members include:

- Councilmember Pradeep Gupta, South San Francisco
- Supervisor Warren Slocum, San Mateo
- Supervisor Eric Mar, San Francisco
- Executive Director Tilly Chang, San Francisco County Transportation Authority
- Director Carlos Romero, Urban Ecology

For the remainder of 2014, we have tentatively scheduled the following topics for the Regional Planning Committee meetings:

- June - HUD Grant, Regional Prosperity Plan Overview

- August - Housing strategies
- October - Resiliency efforts in the Bay Area
- December - Place-making in PDAs

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