

## MEMO

Date: June 1, 2011  
To: ABAG Regional Planning Committee  
From: Danielle Hutchings, Earthquake and Hazards Program Coordinator  
Re: Bay Area Regional Disaster Resilience Action Plan Initiative

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### **Background/Efforts to Date**

ABAG has been actively leading efforts to develop a Bay Area Disaster Recovery and Resilience Plan, particularly in regard to major earthquakes. Between 2008 and 2010 the Regional Planning Committee developed eight issue papers highlighting long-term disaster recovery issues around eight areas: infrastructure, housing, economy, government services, education, health and healthcare, environment, and land use. All of these issue papers are available online at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/recovery>. As a result of these issue papers, the Regional Planning Committee determined that there was a need for a governance structure to plan the regional recovery around these issues and developed the concept of a Regional Recovery Planning Council and sought state legislature sanction of this Council in order to provide an institutionalized structure for recovery planning (SB 1205). ABAG was able to achieve regional stakeholder consensus for the concept of the Council, but little support was received from FEMA and CalEMA and the bill was eventually vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

### **Proposed Next Steps**

Building on the efforts of SB 1205 and the stakeholder support, ABAG is partnering with the Bay Area Center for Regional Disaster Resilience to launch a Bay Area Regional Disaster Resilience Action Plan Initiative with a focus on recovery and restoration. The Initiative will convene key stakeholder organizations and constituencies to identify existing Bay Area capabilities to address major disasters and incidents and to identify gaps and specific activities to improve the Bay Area's capacity to withstand, adapt, and rapidly return to normal and in some cases a "new normal." Emphasis will be on reconstituting lifeline and other critical infrastructures, businesses, government services, community institutions, housing and essential services and facilities that underpin the Bay Area economy and the health, safety, and overall well-being of its citizens.

ABAG proposes to achieve this goal by convening a Regional Resilience Council which will comprise members of the RPC plus additional key stakeholders. The role of the Resilience Council will be to provide guidance and oversight of the Regional Disaster Resilience Action Plan Initiative. The Resilience Council will be supported by a Bay Area Partnership for Regional Disaster Resilience. This Partnership will serve as an umbrella consortium to assure involvement of all key stakeholders agencies, associations, collaborations, and groups with responsibilities or significant interests in disaster preparedness, recovery and response. Its role will be to provide operational and subject matter expertise to enable the Resilience Council to ensure accurate, practical, and implementable Initiative outcomes.

The process used to develop the Regional Resilience Action Plan will be a multi-step approach that has been used in other regions of the nation to develop regional resilience action strategies. This process will entail eight steps and be 14 months in duration, beginning in September 2011 and ending October 2012. The Initiative will be conducted through a series of stakeholder and experts meetings, conference calls, interviews/surveys, development and conduct of an educational Recovery and Restoration Workshop, a targeted Regional Recovery and Restoration Tabletop Exercise, and a final Disaster Resilience Action Planning Workshop for stakeholder coordination, validation and finalization of the Action Plan. An important element of the Initiative is producing a regional baseline assessment or Gap Analysis of existing Bay Area disaster preparedness/management capabilities and needs that can demonstrate where mitigation measures and other resilience improvement investments are required.

### **About the Bay Area Center for Regional Disaster Resilience**

The Bay Area Center for Regional Disaster Resilience (Bay Area CRDR) is a California Non Profit (Section 501(c) (3)) corporation (application for non-profit status in process) established for the charitable and educational purposes of raising awareness and empowering action among individuals and public/private sector and non-profit organizations on all hazards disasters, health, safety, economic, environmental, and societal consequences and preparedness gaps. Towards this end, the Bay Area CRDR fosters information sharing and networking to develop cooperative, actionable strategies to improve community and regional capabilities to withstand, respond, and recover from disasters and major incidents. The Bay Area CRDR partners with the Association of Bay Area Governments, other regional associations, and local, state, and federal agencies to provide stakeholders the knowledge and capabilities necessary to collectively advance toward cost-effective, sustainable regional and community disaster resilience. A key focus is developing the trusted relationships and partnerships necessary to enable communities to meet the challenges of an increasingly interdependent and uncertain world.

### **Recommended Action**

This is a discussion item. Staff seeks input on the next steps of the Regional Disaster Resilience Action Plan Initiative. No action is required.

### **Attachments**

1) Proposed Bay Area Regional Disaster Resilience Action Plan Initiative. Focus: Recovery and Restoration