

From: [Linda Riebel](#)
To: [MTC Info](#)
Subject: ABAG Exec meeting 4/23/2020
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 7:46:06 PM

External Email

Dear ABAG Executive Board,

Since your organization has so much power over my town and my life, I'd like to share my thoughts.

The coronavirus pandemic has changed *everything*. Projections about the future are just guesses. To pass requirements for cities to build more housing is to engage in sheer speculation.

We don't know:

- how many more people will **die**,
- how many residences they will leave **vacant**,
- how many businesses will dry up and blow away (making **jobs disappear**),
- how many people will decide to stay far, **far away from urban megalopolises**,
- whether universities will go entirely online forever (leaving **dorms vacant**),
- whether **young people will decide to stay put** rather than start a family and want a larger home,
- whether **building materials** from abroad will be available or at what cost,
- how long it will take for the **hospitality industry** to recover,
- and whether people who lose homes in this crisis will **ever be able to buy or rent again**.

You can probably add to this list of unknowns. Please take all this into account. We are in a once-in-a-century situation. To honor your obligations to work for the betterment of the Bay Area, you should **cancel any numbers that were devised before the pandemic**.

Like many of us, you'll need to start over. I hope and trust you will do the right thing.

Sincerely, Linda Riebel, 

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Linda Riebel, Ph.D.

Past President, Friends of Opera San Jose
Faculty, Saybrook University
Board, SaveNature.Org
Board, Sustainable Lafayette (2008-2014)