

October 14, 2020

Mayor Jesse Arreguin, President
Executive Board, Association of Bay Area Governments
375 Beale Street, Suite 700
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Support for **Option 6A** using the Plan Bay Area 2050 **Households** Baseline with the **Equity Adjustment**

Dear President Arreguin and ABAG Executive Board,

The pandemic, wildfires, and protests for racial justice are all highlighting the urgent need for our region to ensure good health and prosperity for the entire Bay Area no matter what comes our way. We are housing justice advocates who strive for an inclusive and prosperous Bay Area where all residents have a safe and affordable home and equal access to opportunity.

We ask the ABAG Executive Board to move forward on **Option 6A: “Modified High Opportunity Areas Emphasis” under the Plan Bay Area (PBA) 2050 Households baseline with an Equity Adjustment.**

This methodology uses 3 key strategies to ensure inclusivity and prosperity for all Bay Area residents while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the ratio of jobs to homes in each city and county:

1. **PBA 2050 Households Baseline:** This baseline is derived from our region’s ongoing transportation plan, PBA 2050. After much deliberation, the Housing Methodology Committee (HMC) decided on this baseline as the best way to ensure consistency with PBA 2050 along with meeting the other legally required objectives of the RHNA process, including affirmatively furthering fair housing and jobs-housing fit.
2. **Option 6A:** ABAG staff had recommended this formula as the most effective way to meet all of RHNA’s legal requirements. This formula allocates homes based on each jurisdiction’s level of economic, educational, and environmental opportunities as well as distance to jobs. This ensures that all Bay Area residents can live close to their jobs and in places with resources to thrive.

3. **Equity Adjustment:** A significant portion of HMC members supported the equity adjustment. This adjustment ensures that all racially and economically exclusive jurisdictions receive their fair share of affordable homes. Otherwise, one-quarter to one-third of exclusive jurisdictions will continue to only permit homes affordable to the wealthiest people in the Bay Area.

All Bay Area cities and counties must come together now and move toward a future where people of all racial and economic backgrounds have access to housing and resources. We need to look past the narrow interests of a few small cities and instead plan for a future where Bay Area residents of all backgrounds can live and prosper in the Bay Area.

Signed,

Shajuti Hossain, *Public Advocates*

Matt King, *Sacred Heart Community Service in San Jose*

Monith Ilavarasan, *Candidate for Pleasanton Mayor*

Tim Frank, *Center for Sustainable Neighborhoods*

Debra Ballinger, *Monument Impact in Concord*

Jay Galvin, *Pleasanton Housing Commissioner*

Lacei Amodei, *Hayward Community Organizer and Candidate for Hayward City Council*

Elisha Crader, *Hayward Community Organizer and Candidate for Hayward City Council*

Leslie Gordon and Tameeka Bennett, *Urban Habitat*

Zarina Kiziloglu, *Pleasanton Housing Commissioner and Candidate for Pleasanton City Council*