

Personal Statement to ABAG re: RHNA requirements

As a concerned resident of Portola Valley I am sending you my comments re: your new RHNA requirements. I am completely in favor of your attempts to create affordable housing in our area; having lived here since 1974 I have observed the continuous decline of decent housing for our working population.

That being said; the new requirements were written in our “old” world. The pandemic has really turned everything in society upside down and we will not be able to see what the future will look like for at least a year. It seems impractical to keep enforcing such stringent rules on planning for more housing to be built when we can see dozens of large office spaces empty, retail locations becoming vacant and people moving from the Bay Area.

Also as a resident of a town with a high risk of wildfires; I would hope ABAG can push the “pause” button for six months to a year until more planning can take place.

I have always been in favor of ABAG’s approach to organizing all our counties into a somewhat unified group; not perfect but it has helped the area in many ways.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Joyce Shefren

