

# Tri-Valley Cities

DANVILLE • DUBLIN • LIVERMORE • PLEASANTON • SAN RAMON

September 14, 2020

Mayor Jesse Arreguín, President  
Association of Bay Area Governments, Executive Board  
375 Beale Street, Suite 700  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

Dear Board President Arreguín:

On behalf of the Tri-Valley cities of Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and San Ramon, we are writing to express our concern about the methodology options that will be considered by the Housing Methodology Committee on September 18.

The Tri-Valley Cities (TVC) appreciate the urgency of the statewide housing crisis and the responsibility of local jurisdictions to address this important issue. Each of our five cities has taken significant steps over recent years to facilitate the construction of both market-rate and affordable housing – evidenced by the construction of more than 10,300 new housing units since the start of the last Housing Element cycle – these efforts have made the Tri-Valley one of the fastest-growing regions in the Bay Area and the State. Through dedicated affordable housing projects, application of inclusionary ordinances, and policies to encourage ADUs, we have also made progress towards fulfilling our affordable housing needs, although, as has been experienced by most cities, the lack of funding for lower-income housing continues to present a significant challenge.

We very much appreciate the efforts and dedication of the HMC in addressing the significant challenges presented by the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle RHNA process. Although we commend the HMC's prior decision to utilize the Plan Bay Area 2050 Households Baseline in the methodology, we would urge reconsideration of the currently proposed methodologies and factors, in order to more appropriately balance the RHNA Statutory Objectives identified in State Law including equity and fair housing goals, as well as those related to efficient growth patterns and GHG reductions.

Methodology options 5A and 6A that will be under consideration by the HMC on September 18, have significant flaws. In particular, both place a disproportionate emphasis on factors that allocate RHNA to high opportunity areas, without consideration of the negative consequences of the resultant land use patterns. The following points reflect our specific concerns regarding the proposed methodology options:

- The options do not adequately address factors related to transit and jobs proximity, and fail to take into account the lack of high-quality transit within the Tri-Valley, and distance from the major employment centers of the South Bay, Oakland, and San Francisco. The methodologies allocate growth in a manner that will promote auto dependency and longer commute times, exacerbate GHG impacts, and run counter to the goals and objectives well-formulated and strongly articulated in the recently released Plan Bay Area Blueprint. This is also counter to RHNA Statutory Objective 2: Promoting infill



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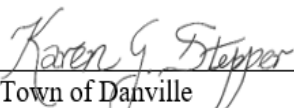
development and socioeconomic equity, the protection of environmental and agricultural resources, and the encouragement of efficient development patterns.

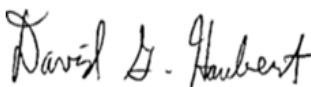
- The options push significant housing allocations into the outer ring of Bay Area suburbs, including the Tri-Valley, exacerbating the jobs/housing imbalance, and compelling long commutes to distant jobs centers. Even in our relatively jobs-rich Tri-Valley cities, data shows that many of our residents, today, commute significant distances to work. This comes at a significant cost: not just in negative environmental consequences, but as time spent away from families, and a further strain on household finances, particularly for lower-income households.
- Our smaller cities have limited land area and sites that are candidates for re-zoning. Significant RHNA allocations may have the unintended consequence of causing speculative increases in land values, and create pressure to develop agricultural and open space lands, areas subject to natural hazards, and other sensitive resources.


Given these concerns, we would urge the Executive Board to reject the current options 5A and 6A, and consider methodology options that emphasize factors and factor weightings that 1) focus housing allocations in areas most proximate to the highest concentrations of jobs, and particularly where jobs growth has outpaced recent housing production (e.g jobs proximity factors); 2) provide realistic allocations that take account of geographic and other constraints to housing development (e.g. urbanized land area factors); and 3) provide residents with access to viable transit and transportation options that do not add to regional congestion, commute times, and household transportation costs (e.g. transit proximity factors).

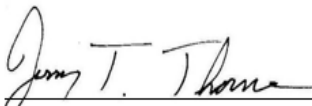
Thank you for your consideration of these important concerns.


Respectfully,

  
Town of Danville  
Mayor Karen Stepper

  
City of Dublin  
Mayor David Haubert

  
City of Livermore  
Mayor John Marchand

  
City of Pleasanton  
Mayor Jerry Thorne

  
City of San Ramon  
Mayor Bill Clarkson

