



City Council

Mike Anderson, Mayor
Susan Candell, Vice Mayor
Steven Bliss, Council Member
Cameron Burks, Council Member
Teresa Gerringer, Council Member

September 16, 2020

Jesse Arreguin, Chair
Housing Methodology Committee
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105-2006

RE: RHNA Housing Methodology

Chair Arreguin:

We'd like to thank you and the work of the ABAG Housing Methodology Committee (HMC) for the tireless efforts on developing a way to distribute the Bay Area region's share of the Regional Housing Need Determination (RHND) received from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

We appreciate that this is a challenging task, with highly passionate voices advocating for social equity through this effort. With the specter of COVID-19 and its already-apparent economic impacts, we continue to have reservations about the timeline to complete the work of the HMC. As we previously have written to you, we urge **consideration of a three- to six-month pause** in the development of the final methodology. The full impacts of the recession cannot be known for some time, and therefore to continue advancing a process based on projections that now may no longer be accurate is a critical error.

We do endorse the need for increased housing opportunities for all, but strongly urge the HMC to do so without forsaking the region's enduring commitment toward reducing environmental impacts, long commutes, and greenhouse gas emissions by **placing the homes where the job centers are located**. The City of Lafayette specifically wishes to **express its opposition to Options 5A and 6A**, both of which would push development further away from both existing and anticipated job centers. Although the application of the High Opportunity Area (HOA) factor in the methodology is intended to produce laudable goals pertaining to equity, we feel this is an untested theory. These areas are among the most expensive to build, and as such allocating more units to HOAs may never translate into actual development, especially in terms of affordable units. In addition, many HOAs do not have the kind of job base to support substantial allocations of affordable units, which would, again, result in long commutes, many by car. Toward this end, we were dismayed that lowering Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMTs) was not afforded a greater role in the development of the allocation methodology.

As a community, we are thankful for your continuing facilitation and leadership. We look forward to working with ABAG to help ensure that this effort will not erode the great work the Bay Area has already undertaken to address climate change.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Mike Anderson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mike Anderson, Mayor

Cc: Therese Watkins McMillan, Executive Director, Association of Bay Area Governments
Gillian Adams, Principal Planner, ABAG Regional Planning Program
Dave Vautin, Plan Bay Area 2050

RESOLUTION 2020-35

BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE
IN THE MATTER OF:

The City of Lafayette supporting the Contra Costa County Jurisdictions' support for the "Plan Bay Area 2050" housing allocation methodology that matches housing assignments proximate to job centers.

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County Jurisdictions' recognize and respect the local needs and character of each community, and have a shared interest in maintaining local control of decision-making related to all aspects of the management of each jurisdiction, including but not limited to financial, land use and development, and growth-related matters; and

WHEREAS, in June 2020, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) determined that the San Francisco Bay region must plan to accommodate 441,176 housing units over the upcoming 8-year housing element cycle (2022-2030); and

WHEREAS, according to Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), this represents a 135% increase from the previous housing element assignment; and

WHEREAS, ABAG has formed a Housing Methodology Committee (HMC) that is charged with evaluating and making a recommendation on how these housing units would be allocated to the Bay Area's 101 cities and 9 counties; and

WHEREAS, at a very high level, the HMC is considering a variety of options and factors for allocating housing units; and

WHEREAS, selecting a 'baseline data' methodology has the greatest impact on Contra Costa communities and ensuring that there is a match between housing assignments and job centers; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa Mayors Conference at their August 6, 2020 meeting discussed and unanimously supported the 'Plan Bay Area 2050 Baseline Data Methodology'; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa Mayors Conference sent a letter of support for the 'Plan Bay Area 2050 Baseline Data Methodology' on August 7, 2020; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Lafayette City Council does hereby resolve, declare, determine and order the following:

Re-affirm the Contra Costa Mayors' Conference letter of support for the support for the 'Plan Bay Area 2050 Baseline Data Methodology' which is consistent with decades-long region-wide efforts to:

- Encourage housing development proximate to job centers, which would in turn
- Reduce transit and transportation congestion, helping to alleviate long regionwide commute times; and
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with AB 32, SB 375 and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Plan Bay Area 2050 policy framework

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of Lafayette at its regular City Council meeting held on September 14, 2020.

AYES: **Anderson, Candell, Burks and Gerringer**

NOES: **None**

ABSTAIN: **None**

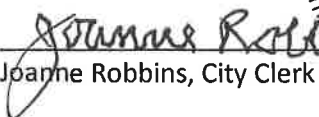
ABSENT: **Bliss**

APPROVED:



Mike Anderson Mayor

ATTEST:



Joanne Robbins, City Clerk