

September 11, 2020

Jesse Arreguin, President ABAG Executive Board 375 Beale Street, Suite 800 San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Housing Methodology

President Arreguin,

The City of Pittsburg thanks you and the ABAG Housing Methodology Committee (HMC) for your efforts in developing a methodology 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 recognize that this is a formidable task, and one that will shape the region for years to come, with highly passionate voices advocating for social equity through this effort.

We also recognize the need for increased housing opportunities for all. However, we strongly believe that increasing housing alone does not adequately address the economic hurdles many in the region are facing, nor does it ensure the sustainability of the Bay Area and the quality of life our denizens deserve. To this end, the City of Pittsburg urges the Executive Board to advocate for increased housing opportunities without forsaking the region's enduring commitment toward reducing environmental impacts, long commutes, and greenhouse gas emissions.

The City of Pittsburg affirms support of the Contra Costa Mayors' Conference letter to the ABAG HMC, dated August 7, 2020, which endorses the use of "Plan Bay Area 2050" as the baseline methodology and encouraging housing development in proximity to jobs, which would in turn reduce transit and transportation congestion, helping to alleviate long region-wide commutes, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a manner consistent with both AB 32 and SB 375. Further, as part of any future housing strategy, we fully support policies that bring more jobs to eastern Contra Costa County.

Lastly, we advocate for HCD to allow jurisdictions to continue to count entitlements that exceed requirements from our current RHNA cycle toward their respective future allocations, as the dissolution of redevelopment agencies has eliminated most cities' ability to dictate development timelines.

We are thankful for your continuing facilitation and leadership and look forward to working with ABAG to help ensure that this effort does not unravel other enduring commitments to environmental protection and traffic congestion relief.

Sincerely,

Jelani Killings Mayor

Johnel But While

Holland Barrett White Councilmember

Merl Craft Vice Mayor

Shanelle Scales-Preston Councilmember

Juan Antonio Banales Councilmember

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE