



City of Gilroy Mayor's Office

City Hall
7351 Rosanna Street
Gilroy, California
95020-6197

Marie Blankley, Mayor
marie.blankley@cityofgilroy.org
City Hall Office (408) 846-0227
Cell Phone (408) 465-6032
www.cityofgilroy.org

December 14, 2020

To: ABAG Executive Board Members
Submitted via email to: info@bayareametro.gov

From: City of Gilroy Mayor Marie Blankley

RE: December 17, 2020 Executive Board Meeting Agenda Item 9

Dear ABAG Executive Board Members,

On behalf of the City Council for the City of Gilroy, I would like to thank ABAG leadership and staff and the Housing Methodology Committee for your hard work and dedication over the past year on the proposed RHNA Methodology.

I understand that ABAG has received over 100 letters representing over 200 perspectives from local jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and the public. Many of these letters noted the importance of furthering regional equity as well as the need to focus RHNA on areas with transit and jobs to better align with Plan Bay Area 2050.

Gilroy is supportive of housing development in the City and continues to support efforts to provide Gilroy's fair share of the region's affordable housing needs. However, the City is adamantly opposed to a redistribution of housing units to the City of Gilroy from other jurisdictions that would be in conflict with the statutory objectives of RHNA and the Housing Methodology Committee's policy priorities regarding access to high opportunity areas and job proximity. ABAG convened the Housing Methodology Committee to guide development of the RHNA methodology, with representation across the nine (9) Bay Area counties.

Ultimately, the HMC recommended a methodology that allocates more housing units to jurisdictions with Access to High Opportunity Areas and Job Proximity. These factors were chosen to avoid further segregation and concentration of poverty and to encourage affordable housing in areas with access to job centers, good schools and low crime rates, among other factors. These policy priorities advance the five statutory objectives of RHNA and Objective 5 in particular; the new requirement to "affirmatively further fair housing," which focuses on overcoming patterns of segregation and fostering inclusive communities.

Furthermore, regional transportation options in Gilroy are limited, thus when looking at areas such as Access to High Opportunity Areas and Job Proximity, transportation options must also be part of that conversation.

In conclusion, Gilroy encourages ABAG's Executive Board to oppose any redistribution of housing units to the City of Gilroy from other jurisdictions, in conflict with these goals. Gilroy

appreciates the opportunity to be engaged in the conversation and the ongoing decisions to be made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marie Blankley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Marie Blankley
Mayor, City of Gilroy