

Section 19

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

**(a) The Emergence of a Regional Concept 1910-1970
(November 1970)**

**(b) ABAG Project Review Policies and Procedures as
Adopted by the Executive Committee (1/15/1970)**

(c) ABAG Message - A-95 Review Program Sources

1. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

**2. A Proposed Land Use Policy Framework for the
San Francisco Bay Area (July 1990)**

**3. Reaction to ABAG Plan Vote Mixed (Benicia
Herald (7/29/1990))**

Section 19 (a)

**The Emergence of a Regional Concept 1910-1970
(November 1970)**

THE EMERGENCE OF A REGIONAL CONCEPT

1910 - 1970

ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
Hotel Claremont
Berkeley, California 94705
415 841-9730

November 1970

- 1910 *The "Greater San Francisco" Movement is proposed for the San Francisco Peninsula based on the New York borough system.*
- 1920 *The Commonwealth Club supports the Regional Plan Association to develop a land use and transportation plan for six counties.*
- 1928 *The Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District is formed.*
- 1934 *The East Bay Regional Park District is formed.*
- 1949 *The Water Pollution Control Board is established by the legislature.*
- 1955 *The Bay Area Air Pollution Control District is established by the legislature.*
- 1957 *The San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District is created by the legislature.*
- 1958 *The Metropolitan Municipal Bill of Rights, as adopted by the League of California Cities, stresses home rule, cooperation, and Metropolitan Councils to be established under the Joint Exercise of Powers Law.* ✓
- 1959 *Legislation is introduced to establish a Golden Gate Authority to operate bridges, airports and harbor facilities.* ✓

Governor Brown appoints a Commission on Metropolitan Area Problems.

120 delegates from 56 cities meet October 2 to discuss the possible formation of a Bay Area Metropolitan Council. Mayor Claude Hutchison (Berkeley), Chairman, introduces speakers on the subjects of the League's position on metropolitan problems, the experience of other metropolitan councils, possible purposes and functions of a council, and possible composition of a council. The delegates authorize Mayor Hutchison to appoint a study committee of Bay Area mayors to propose the composition, method of organization and by-laws for the formation of a Bay Area Metropolitan Council. *first name*

- 1960 *The Commission on Metropolitan Area Problems submits a report recommending legislation to authorize creation in metropolitan areas of a single multi-purpose regional district governed by a council made up of locally elected officials.*

135 delegates representing nine counties and 52 cities meet May 5 to consider the work of the Supervisors' and Mayors' Committee which drew up by-laws for the proposed Association of Bay Area Governments. The delegates overwhelmingly approve the By-laws and recommend that each Board of Supervisors and City Council in the nine Bay Area Counties authorize execution of the Joint Powers Agreement and become members of ABAG.

Cities and counties take official steps to become members of ABAG. Supervisors' and Mayors' Committee continues meeting to establish qualifications for an Executive Director and oversee membership campaign.

1961 Informal General Assembly is held January 12. San Francisco, San Mateo and Sonoma Counties announce their intended membership.

The first official General Assembly is held February 24 with a charter membership of six counties and 54 cities. Mayor Claude Hutchison (Berkeley) is elected President and Supervisor Wesley Hubbard (Santa Clara County) is elected Vice President. A budget for 1960-61 of \$17,000 and for 1961-62 of \$27,500 is approved.

Mr. Wilbur Smith is appointed Executive Director and the first ABAG Committees are set up.

The September General Assembly votes that ABAG should study the following topics: uniform building codes, Bay Area tidelands development, Bay Area governmental data center, water pollution - including sewage and plant locations, solid waste sites, and an inventory of open space.

1962 Supervisor Ralph Mehrkens (Santa Clara County) is elected President and Mayor John McInnis (San Rafael) is elected Vice President by the General Assembly on February 28. A Refuse Disposal Study is recommended by the Water Pollution Committee. The General Assembly votes to support the \$150 million State Park Bond Act.

An inventory of regional parks and open space is completed by the Technical Advisory Group of the Regional Recreation Committee.

The Uniform Standards Committee drafts a model shelter ordinance.

ABAG supports the Bay Area Transportation Coordination Committee in its request that the state determine the need for a comprehensive transportation study for the Bay Area. The Executive Committee considers the question of uniform rates on Bay Area toll bridges.

The General Assembly votes on October 10 to assume the responsibility for regional planning for the Bay Area.

The Subcommittee on Multi-Purpose Districts studies local special districts that provide municipal-type services in unincorporated areas.

Voters approve the \$792 million Bay Area Rapid Transit District bond issue for Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco counties.

1963 *The Bay Area Transportation Study is established by the legislature.*

ABAG prepares an application for Federal urban planning assistance funds to finance the regional planning program which has a two-year budget of \$257,000 (local funds \$86,000 and Federal funds \$171,000). ✓

ABAG's membership is 64 cities and 7 counties.

ABAG reviews open space land grants for the Bay area and handles Inter-governmental Agreements with cities and counties to make the Bay Area eligible for 30% Federal grants to preserve open space.

Mayor John McInnis (San Rafael) serves as ABAG's President and Supervisor Kent Pursel (Alameda County) is Vice President.

1964 ABAG proposes a voluntary moratorium on filling of San Francisco Bay and prepares a model ordinance and Joint Powers Agreement for Bay-shore cities and counties to sign.

Supervisor Kent Pursel (Alameda County) is elected President and Mayor Newell Case (Walnut Creek) is Vice President. The General Assembly adopts a General Fund Budget of \$53,000 for 1964-65.

Warren Schmid becomes ABAG's Executive Director and James Hickey is appointed as its Planning Director.

72 cities and 8 counties belong to ABAG.

ABAG takes a strong position opposing the construction of the San Luis Interceptor Drain, but supports the continued funding of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Bay Model.

The Executive Committee includes "existing and future housing needs" as part of the regional planning program.

ABAG applies for Federal funds for an economic activity model of the Bay Area to be developed by the Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics at the University of California, Berkeley.

The West Bay Rapid Transit Authority for San Mateo County and the Marin County Transit District are established by the legislature.

1965 *The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission is established by the legislature.* ✓

ABAG supports the tax increase proposed for the Bay Area Air Pollution Control District and adopts a policy favoring air pollution control devices for all motor vehicles.

ABAG requests all Bay Area cities and counties to adopt the 1964 Uniform Building Code. ✓

ABAG supports Alameda County's electronic information retrieval system for arrest warrants (PIN) and expresses interest in areawide law enforcement problems and programs.

ABAG passes a resolution requesting that the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Public Health Service make a study to determine the most feasible

method of waste disposal that would maintain adequate water quality for the San Francisco Bay system.

Councilman Newell Case (Walnut Creek) and Supervisor Louis Chess (San Mateo County) serve as President and Vice President of ABAG.

ABAG's planning program is reorganized to comply with the needs of the Bay Area Transportation Study.

Refuse Disposal Needs Study is published; it estimates that by the year 2000 the Bay Area will produce enough solid waste to cover a 50 square mile area to a depth of 20 feet.

12/10
The General Assembly approves the Special District Consolidation Report suggesting ABAG support the activities of County Local Agency Formation Commissions and conduct continuing studies of special district problems and solutions.

1966 ABAG's Goals and Organization Committee is established to consider Bay Area problems and ABAG's priorities and to recommend appropriate changes in ABAG's structure. The Committee identifies eight problem areas requiring top priority: solid waste disposal, water quality control, regional transportation, Bay conservation and development, air pollution, comprehensive regional planning, open space and parks, and airport planning. The GO Committee's recommendation that a multi-functional, limited purpose, home-rule agency be established by the Legislature is approved by the General Assembly.

The General Fund Budget for 1965-66 is \$52,138.

Supervisor Louis Chess (San Mateo County) is elected President. Councilman Robert Miller (San Jose) serves as Vice President following the resignation of Vice Mayor Charles Allen (Sonoma) in April.

ABAG establishes cooperating memberships for special districts and out-of-area jurisdictions.

ABAG cooperates with Santa Clara and Contra Costa Counties in their county-wide transportation studies.

An Executive Committee meeting is filmed by Encyclopedia Britannica for inclusion in a movie on local government in regional affairs.

ABAG sponsors a luncheon for new State legislators on tour of Northern California.

ABAG is asked to review Bay Area projects to be funded under the 1964 State Park Bond Act.

Preliminary Regional Plan is published and the preliminary design concept

for a Regional Information System is completed.

1967 ABAG publishes a survey of Regional Governmental Agencies and Programs in the Bay Area prepared for the Goals and Organization Committee by Public Administration Service.

Other studies completed are: Inventory of Parks and Open Space of San Francisco Bay Region, Population and Labor Force Projections and the Bay Shoreline Study.

AB 50 and SB 26 are introduced as skeleton bills for legislative hearings on ABAG's Regional Home Rule proposal. The Legislature establishes a Joint Committee on Bay Area Regional Organization (BARO).

ABAG receives the "1967 Urban Development Governmental Meritorious Award" from HUD for Intergovernmental cooperation in urban development.

ABAG votes to sponsor a four-county (Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, and San Mateo) Community Shelter Planning Program.

Councilman Robert Miller (San Jose) and Supervisor James Kenny (Contra Costa County) serve as President and Vice President of the Association.

1968 Supervisor James Kenny (Contra Costa County) and Mayor Jack Maltester (San Leandro) serve as President and Vice President and J. Julien Baget becomes ABAG's Executive Director.

Regional Geology is published. It points out that valuable mineral resources need protection from residential development. One-tenth of the country's mercury comes from the Bay Area. Geologic data is a basic requirement for land use planning.

The Program Design for the four-county Community Shelter Plan is completed.

ABAG endorses the principle of the continuation, without interruption, of a control mechanism for Bay development and fill pending the establishment of a permanent authority.

ABAG establishes a Regional Airport Commission and enters into negotiations with the three major airports to develop a comprehensive airport planning program.

ABAG's Property Tax Relief Committee and a Technical Advisory Group are formed to investigate commuter taxes and the tax structure.

1969 *The Bay Conservation and Development Commission is given permanent status by the legislature.*

The State's Bay-Delta Water Quality Study costing \$3 million is completed.

Mayor Jack Maltester (San Leandro) and Supervisor Ignazio Vella (Sonoma County) serve as ABAG's President and Vice President. The General Assembly adopts a total budget of \$1,375,925 for 1969-70.

ABAG and the State Business and Transportation Agency sign an agreement creating the Regional Transportation Planning Committee. Because the Legislature did not continue the BATS Commission, this Committee is responsible for continuing transportation planning in the Bay Area. Counties are assessed \$75,000 as the local share in funding this program.

ABAG passes a resolution urging the Federal Government to complete land acquisition of Point Reyes National Seashore.

In cooperation with the California Council on Criminal Justice, ABAG establishes a Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Board and prepares a program design for regional planning in criminal justice and law enforcement.

ABAG supports legislation (AB 1846) introduced by Assemblyman William Bagley to establish a Regional Home Rule Agency for the Bay Area. The bill is sent to interim study.

The Regional Airport Systems Study Committee directs ABAG's activities in airport planning in cooperation with BASAR, a joint powers agency of the three major airports.

ABAG requests the Corps of Engineers to undertake the necessary tests and study the effects of oil spills in San Francisco Bay.

82 cities and 8 counties are members of ABAG.

Agricultural Resources Study by ABAG points out that 13,000 acres of Bay Area agricultural land are converted to urban uses each year.

ABAG's Regional Open Space Element details the 15% deficiency of public open space lands in the Bay Area.

People for Open Space complete an economic feasibility study of open space acquisition using ABAG's Open Space Plan. The study is funded by the Ford Foundation.

Regional Housing Study emphasizes the need for over a million new housing units by 1990 if the Bay Area's population grows as projected.

The Criminal Justice Information and Communications Study and the first two phases of the four-county Community Shelter Plan are completed.

1970 Regional Plan 1970-1990, the Bay Area's first comprehensive regional plan, is approved by an overwhelming vote of the General Assembly on July 30.

Supervisor Ignazio Vella (Sonoma County) and Mayor Ronald James (San Jose) are elected to two year terms as President and Vice President. New Bylaw

amendment provides that all supervisors, mayors and councilmen of member jurisdictions may vote for ABAG's officers.

A work program for a Bay Region Planning Information Support Center is completed.

The Legislature establishes the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the Bay Area.) ✓

ABAG's Ocean Coastline Study points out the need for a coastline plan. 50% of the region's coastal zone is land that could be developed.

The first phase of the Water, Sewerage & Drainage Plan is completed. Response Analysis of the preliminary plan is published.

A summary of Phase I of ABAG's Airport Systems Study predicts a growth in Bay Area air passengers from 20 million in 1970 to 83 million in 1985.

ABAG cooperates with the Institute for Local Self Government in a manpower development pilot project and a manpower requirements survey of local government. CETA ✓

The Criminal Justice Planning program is expanded to provide technical and planning assistance to area Model City projects. ✓

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

DECISION MAKERS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, Leagues of Women Voters of the Bay Area, April 1967.

THE REGIONAL CONCEPT, SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA 1900-1962: A DIGEST, Leagues of Women Voters of the Bay Area, January 1963.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Association of Bay Area Governments, 1961 through 1970.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Association of Bay Area Governments, 1961 through 1970.

BULLETINS, Association of Bay Area Governments, 1960 through 1964.