

MARCH, 2017

ABAG RESILIENCE PROJECTS



Tools for Implementing Resilience Practices Workshops

Two workshops have been held in this workshop series: **Setting Yourself up for Successful Federal Funding** on January 17, 2017 and **Linking Resilience to Planning and Engagement** on March 28, 2017. Materials from each workshop are available [on our website](#).

The next workshop, **Innovative Local and Regional Approaches to Resilience Financing** will be **May 15, 2017** from **11 am-2 pm** ABAG's new location at 375 Beale Street in San Francisco in the Yerba Buena room. [Register here](#).

Future workshops in this series include:

- **Building Resilient Homes to Build Resilient Communities: A Pilot Project** - July 25, 2017
- **Planning for an Uncertain Energy Future: Energy Assurance for Resilience and Sustainability** - September 22, 2017

For more info, contact [Dana Brechwald](#). These workshop are sponsored by FEMA Region IX.

Soft Story Retrofit Model Ordinance Now Available

ABAG, in partnership with David Bonowitz, SE, has created the **Resilience Policy Guidance Document: Soft Story Model Ordinance and Handbook** to help jurisdictions develop local soft story retrofit programs.

The ordinance stemmed from ABAG's 2016 **Resilience Policy Guidance Document: Soft Story Retrofit Program Development** report. Throughout 2017, ABAG and David worked with cities in the East Bay Corridors Initiative to identify policy priorities, culminating in a day-long workshop in October. The result was a responsive, adaptable model ordinance that incorporates local and statewide best practices for soft story retrofit policy. The ordinance provides guidance and language for cities to adapt the policy to meet local needs. If your city has been considering developing a soft story retrofit



policy, you may wish to utilize our model ordinance to help you develop a localized policy quicker and with less effort. For more information on the soft story retrofit effort at ABAG, contact **Dana Brechwald**, 415-820-7945.

CITY SPOTLIGHTS

Flooding Hits San Jose

On February 21st, floodwaters resulting from an overly-full Anderson Reservoir spilled over the banks of Coyote Creek into the Naglee Creek and Rock Springs neighborhoods of San Jose, resulting in mandatory evacuations for 14,000 residents. This winter, the watershed that feeds coyote creek has experienced its wettest year on record, saturating soils and filling Anderson Reservoir. In the three days that followed the February flood the city cleared 4,000 housing units for re-entry, and evacuations were lifted for all but 1,000 residents. Five weeks out from the flood, more than 500 residents are still out of their homes with 70 residents still in an overnight shelter.

The City has run into challenges of finding temporary housing for displaced residents in the tight housing market. Additionally, city officials expect the costs for repairs to be in the tens of millions of dollars.

In 2015, ABAG and BCDC published *Stronger Housing, Safer Communities*, a joint regional assessment, which mapped where areas of high flooding and earthquake hazards intersected with communities with characteristics that make them less able to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster. You can download the report which includes strategies to address these challenges [here](#).

The ABAG Resilience Program is currently developing housing loss and shelter needs estimates for 16 Bay Area earthquake scenarios and two flooding scenarios. The data from this analysis will be available in summer 2017 and can be used to characterize mitigation needs to address vulnerable housing, and make appropriate shelter plans for communities. For more information of this ongoing research, or for more information on Stronger Housing Safer Communities report, connect with **Dana Brechwald**, 415-820-7945.

RESILIENCE IN THE NEWS

Grants Available for Local Resilience-Building Projects

Multiple grants are currently open and accepting applications for a variety of resilience building activities.

- **FEMA HMGP immediate needs funding for 2016 and 2017 winter storms.**
Triggered by local flood disaster declarations in the Bay Area for January 3-12 2017 floods, this grant provides funding for shovel-ready flood or erosion control projects. Communities eligible to apply must have an approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in place. See the [fact sheet](#), [application](#), and [application instructions](#). **Grant applications are due April 15.**
- **California State Coastal Conservancy Proposition 1 Grant** to fund multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects, such as water sustainability improvement, wetland restoration, and urban greening. For more information, visit the [website](#). **Grant applications are due May 31.**
- **PG&E Resilient Communities Grant Program** to support local climate change resilience planning. Grants will help communities better prepare for, withstand, and recover from extreme events and other risks related to climate change. This year's priorities include building healthy and resilient forests and watersheds to prevent and prepare for increasing wildfire risks. For more information, visit the [website](#). **Grant applications are due May 12.**

New Yorker Features the Hayward Fault

The creeping Hayward Fault makes national news - take a tour with a local Bay Area journalist as he gets up close and personal with the fault in our



backward [here](#).

Creep on the Hayward fault evidenced by an offset sidewalk. Image via flickr.

California - Drought and Deluge

The past decade has been a reminder of extremes in California. The driest five-year period on record has been followed on what could be the record wettest year on record for the state. Past investments by the Bay Area and the state have weathered most of the stresses, but near misses and acute impacts call for continued investment in mitigating drought and flooding impacts. The February 21 flooding in San Jose overshadows other regional property and infrastructure damage from flooding and landsliding. Statewide the **Oroville Dam** and **Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge** highlight infrastructure vulnerability.



The Oroville Dam overflowing onto the emergency spillway on February 12. Image via Wikipedia.

The past few years are a reminder to continue investments for both drought and flooding mitigation regardless of the individual years weather.

If you need **drought** or **flooding** hazard information for your community, ABAG has individual hazard pages for drought and flooding, as well as lengthier characterizations of each in the **Risk Landscape** (2015) document. To chat about the drought and water issues, contact **Michael Germeraad**.

ABOUT ABAG RESILIENCE PROGRAM

The Resilience Program of the Association of Bay Area Governments seeks to promote a more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous region where our communities are prepared to withstand and quickly recover from the effects of earthquakes and natural hazards. [Learn more.](#)

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