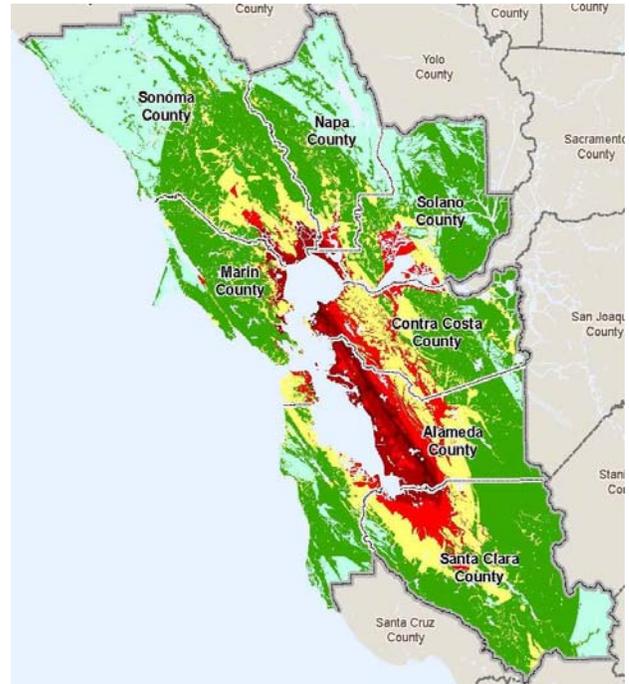


NEED FOR REGIONAL LONG-TERM RECOVERY PLANNING

BACKGROUND

The Bay Area is likely to experience a major earthquake in its future. The Hayward Fault, which runs through the East Bay, is overdue for a major earthquake. Additionally, the San Andreas Fault poses a major threat to the Peninsula and South Bay. Either of these earthquakes is expected to severely damage major lifeline infrastructure, collapse or red tag thousands of commercial structures, and leave 150,000 housing units uninhabitable with about 355,000 people displaced throughout the Bay Area. In contrast to Hurricane Katrina where 40% of homeowners were insured, less than 10% of Bay Area homeowners have earthquake insurance and only 4.4% of housing losses will be covered by insurance.

A major earthquake will affect the entire region, not just individual cities and counties, and is a significant threat to the economic vitality of the region and the State. With nine counties, 101 cities, and more than 400 special districts, the Bay Area will be challenged to undertake long-term regional scale recovery. Long-term recovery initiatives will need to be initiated immediately and will continue on for months and years after a disaster. Advance planning for such an eventuality will be of enormous assistance to jurisdictions post-disaster and could also guide additional mitigation investment.



North and South Hayward Fault M6.9, ABAG, 2004.

NEED

When transitioning from immediate disaster response to long-term recovery efforts, experience has shown that the region needs an institutionalized, comprehensive plan for addressing priorities that are not included in the emergency response phase. Decisions about many of these complex issues will not be made effectively in the chaos and crisis immediately following a disaster. Thinking through some of these anticipated issues ahead of time could minimize the severe economic and social consequences of a slow recovery.

LONG-TERM RECOVERY ISSUES

The framework for the long-term recovery process begins immediately after the disaster, but continues past the response phase for many months or years. Long-term recovery is the process of rebuilding all sectors of the region for the benefit of all communities. Local governments, special districts, and the private sector will be involved in long-term recovery efforts. Some of the long-term recovery issues that will need to be addressed regionally include:

- ◆ Long-term housing replacement for an estimated 356,000 displaced residents
- ◆ Availability and movement of goods throughout the region for reconstruction
- ◆ Mass transit coordination to fill gaps in the transportation system and respond to land use changes
- ◆ Water supply sharing and conservation
- ◆ Special business needs, including relocation and financing assistance, to maintain economic vitality
- ◆ Reconstruction and redevelopment implementation for both the public and private sectors
- ◆ Legislative advocacy for and prioritization of national recovery funds
- ◆ Fast tracking the financing and permitting of reconstruction of utilities and other lifeline infrastructure
- ◆ Program management assistance for distressed local governments undertaking a multitude of capital improvements projects simultaneously.

These are all regionally significant issues that go beyond jurisdictional recovery planning efforts. Advance planning for recovery issues requires the collaboration of both the public and private sectors.

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PROPOSAL: SB 1205 BAY AREA DISASTER RECOVERY PLANNING COUNCIL

Senate Bill 1205 (Corbett) helps prepare the Bay Area for a sustainable economic recovery following a major earthquake. The bill designates a multi-disciplinary board with representation from cities, counties, special districts, school districts, emergency managers, hospitals, private businesses, and nonprofits of the region as the Bay Area's Disaster Recovery Planning Council for the purpose of developing a comprehensive and regional long-term recovery plan. The recovery planning council creates a structure for the region to plan for anticipated complex issues of regional significance.

WHAT POWERS WILL THIS COUNCIL HAVE?

The Recovery Council's purpose is for planning only. The Council will not have an operational or fiscal agent role following a disaster, and has no land use, taxing, or permitting authority.

WHY DO WE NEED A PLANNING COUNCIL TO ACCOMPLISH THESE TASKS?

The recovery issues our region faces are difficult and complex. Solving them will require dedication from people who are not accustomed to thinking about disasters. An appointed board with a State mandate to develop a recovery plan will have the visibility and credibility necessary to attract funds and talent. Disasters of regional scale occur very infrequently, and the planning council will be a central place to institutionalize the knowledge developed to assist recovery. This will ensure that when the disaster strikes, those persons with the responsibility to manage the recovery will be able to draw on the necessary resources to act effectively. A Planning Council will also ensure that the regional recovery plan is periodically updated and does not become an outdated document on a shelf.

AREN'T OTHER AGENCIES PLANNING FOR LONG-TERM RECOVERY ALREADY?

This regional effort is intended to enhance local jurisdictional recovery efforts and address specific issues of regional importance that go beyond jurisdictional boundaries. Some local jurisdictions are very advanced in their recovery planning efforts. San Francisco is at the forefront of disaster recovery planning for its own city and has worked closely with the business community, non-profits, and major utilities. Other cities such as San Jose and Oakland have been working with ABAG to develop long-term recovery plans. ABAG performed a survey in 2008 of all jurisdictions in the Bay Area and found that overall jurisdictional long-term recovery planning in the region is being done with mixed results.

Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) regional recovery efforts have focused on important short-term recovery issues such as debris removal, temporary housing, mass evacuation, mass fatality, and volunteer and donations management. The long-term recovery plan would seek to build off these local and regional efforts and focus on the long-term recovery issues that will need to be addressed by policy makers and other non-emergency local staff.

WHERE WILL THE FUNDING COME FROM FOR THIS COUNCIL?

One of the purposes of creating the recovery planning council is to raise the level of awareness of the need for long term disaster recovery planning with the State and Federal government. The council will seek grants from the federal government, and donations from private foundations and other private interests. The idea is to increase the amount of available resources for disaster planning and preparedness work in the region, without eliminating funding from any ongoing effort. ABAG staff will provide the administrative support for this council.

WHY SHOULD THE LEGISLATURE GRANT ABAG THE POWER TO APPOINT THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE NEW COUNCIL?

ABAG is the designated regional planning agency for the Bay Area with all the cities and counties of the Bay Area as its members. ABAG has demonstrated a long and successful history of working with local jurisdictions and the region as a whole to reduce risk from natural disasters. Creation of the new council will ensure coordination of all regional planning activities.