ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 1-2026

ABSTRACT

This resolution adopts findings pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, including a Statement of Overriding Considerations; adopts a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP); and certifies the Final Environmental Impact Report prepared for Plan Bay Area 2050+ (SCH# 2025010348), the long-range regional plan for the San Francisco Bay Area.

Further discussion of this action is contained in the Executive Director's summary sheets dated March 13, 2026.

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WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is the regional transportation planning agency for the San Francisco Bay Area pursuant to Government Code Section 66500 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), a joint exercise of powers entity created pursuant to California Government Code Sections 6500 et seq., is the Council of Governments and the regional land use planning agency for the San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code § 65080 et seq. requires MTC to prepare and update a long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), including a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) prepared in conjunction with ABAG, every four years; and

WHEREAS, Plan Bay Area 2050+ ("Plan") is envisioned to be the Bay Area's next long-range regional plan, ultimately serving as the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy for the San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, MTC and ABAG served as joint lead agencies in preparing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report ("Program EIR") (SCH# 2025010348) (attached hereto as **Attachment A** and incorporated herein as though set forth at length) with the assistance of MTC staff and consultants pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15000 et seq.) for the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Program EIR provides full disclosure and programmatic analysis of the potentially significant environmental effects of the Plan for purposes of State law requirements; federal law exempts approval of a transportation plan from environmental review (23 U.S.C., § 134 (j)); and

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WHEREAS, MTC and ABAG issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Program EIR on January 14, 2025, and circulated the NOP for a period of at least 30 days pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines §§ 15082(a), 15103 and 15375; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines §§ 15206 and 15082, MTC and ABAG publicly noticed and held a public scoping meeting on January 29, 2025, for the purpose of soliciting comments from the public and potential responsible and trustee agencies, including details about the scope and content of the environmental information related to the responsible and trustee agencies' areas of statutory responsibility, as well as the significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that the responsible and trustee agencies would need to have analyzed in the Program EIR; and

WHEREAS, MTC and ABAG received responses to the NOP from state, regional and local agencies, organizations, and individuals, which assisted MTC and ABAG in narrowing the issues and identifying alternatives to be analyzed in the Draft Program EIR; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Program EIR was completed and filed with the State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) on October 16, 2025; and

WHEREAS, MTC and ABAG commenced a 59-day review period to solicit comments on the Draft Program EIR, which ended on December 18, 2025; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15087, MTC and ABAG also provided a Notice of Availability (NOA) to all organizations and individuals who previously requested such notice and published a NOA for the Draft Program EIR on October 10, 2025, in a newspaper of general circulation. In addition, copies of the Draft Program EIR were made available at public libraries and at the offices of MTC and ABAG and electronic links to the Draft Program EIR were provided on their websites; and

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WHEREAS, during the comment period on the Draft Program EIR, MTC and ABAG consulted with and requested comments from responsible and trustee agencies, other regulatory agencies, and others pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15086; and

WHEREAS, during the public review period for the Draft Program EIR, MTC and ABAG held three public hearings on the Draft Program EIR and three public hearings on the plan; and

WHEREAS, during the public review period for the Draft Program EIR, MTC and ABAG received written comment letters, email correspondence, and oral and written comments from public hearings, which are included in the Final Program EIR; and

WHEREAS, after the public review period for the Draft Program EIR ended, MTC and ABAG received additional written comment letters; and

WHEREAS, MTC and ABAG staff evaluated all comments on environmental issues received during the administrative process including all comments received during the public comment period and, after the close of the public comment period, has continued to review additional comments submitted upon receipt; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Resources Code § 21092.5 and CEQA Guidelines § 15088, MTC and ABAG provided written responses to all public agencies that submitted comments on the Draft Program EIR on March 15, 2025, more than ten days prior to certification of the Program EIR; and

WHEREAS, MTC and ABAG staff prepared the Final Program EIR, consisting of: (1) comments and recommendations received from state, regional and local agencies, organizations, and individuals on the Draft Program EIR; (2) responses by MTC and ABAG to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process, including Master Responses; (3) revisions to the Draft Program EIR; (4) all appendices to the Final Program EIR; and (5) the Draft Program EIR, including all appendices and revisions thereto; and

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WHEREAS, no comments made in the public hearings conducted by MTC and ABAG, nor any additional information received, have produced significant new information requiring recirculation or additional environmental review under State CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5; and

WHEREAS, State CEQA Guidelines § 15090 provides that lead agencies shall certify that the decision-making body of the lead agency has reviewed and considered the information presented in the Program EIR, that the Program EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA, and that the Program EIR reflects the lead agencies' independent judgement and analysis, prior to approving a project; and

WHEREAS, MTC and ABAG have prepared CEQA Findings in compliance with Public Resources Code §§ 21081 and 21081.5, and CEQA Guidelines § 15091, which are entitled "CEQA Findings and Facts in Support of Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations" (CEQA Findings) (attached hereto as Attachment B and incorporated herein as though set forth at length); and

WHEREAS, all of the findings and conclusions made by MTC and ABAG pursuant to this Resolution are based upon the oral and written evidence presented to it as a whole and not solely on the information provided in this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the plan will have significant impacts that cannot be fully mitigated to less than significant, and MTC and ABAG have prepared a Statement of Overriding Considerations in compliance with Public Resources Code § 21081 and CEQA Guidelines § 15093, included in the CEQA Findings, which concludes that specific economic, legal, social, technological, and other benefits of the plan outweigh the potentially significant and unavoidable impacts identified in the Final Program EIR; and

WHEREAS, each of the specific economic, legal, social, technological, and other benefits of the plan included in the Statement of Overriding Considerations is independently sufficient to justify approval of the plan; and

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WHEREAS, MTC and ABAG have prepared a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (attached hereto as **Attachment C** and incorporated herein as though set forth at length) in compliance with Public Resources Code § 21081.6 and CEQA Guidelines § 15097, to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures identified in the Final Program EIR during plan implementation to the extent feasible; and

WHEREAS, certification of the Final Program EIR is scheduled for consideration by the ABAG Executive Board on March 19, 2026, and by the MTC Commission on March 25, 2026, and public notice for each meeting was circulated to the public in accordance with applicable public noticing requirements;

WHEREAS, prior to taking action on the Final Program EIR, MTC and ABAG have heard, been presented with, reviewed, and considered all of the information and data in the administrative record, including the Final Program EIR, and all oral and written evidence presented to it during all meetings and hearings;

WHEREAS, all other legal prerequisites to the adoption of this Resolution have occurred; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that ABAG hereby finds and certifies that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ABAG makes and adopts the CEQA Findings required by Public Resources Code § 21081 and CEQA Guidelines § 15091, which are attached hereto as Attachment B and incorporated herein by this reference; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ABAG finds, based on the Final Program EIR and the whole of the administrative record, that the plan will have significant impacts that cannot be fully mitigated to less than significant; and be it further

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RESOLVED, that ABAG adopts the Statement of Overriding Considerations as required by CEQA Guidelines § 15093, which describes numerous specific economic, legal, social, technological, and other benefits of the plan each of which is independently sufficient to justify approval of the plan, and which included as part of the CEQA Findings (Attachment B) and incorporated herein by this reference; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ABAG finds that the Final Program EIR satisfies all applicable requirements of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines; and be it further
RESOLVED, that MTC finds that the Final Program EIR sufficiently analyzes both the feasible mitigation measures necessary to avoid or substantially lessen the plan's potentially significant environmental impacts and a reasonable range of alternatives capable of eliminating or reducing these effects in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ABAG finds that MTC and ABAG staff prepared the Final Program EIR, consisting of: (1) the Draft Program EIR, including all appendices and revisions thereto; (2) comments and recommendations received on the Draft Program EIR, including a list of persons, organization, and public agencies commenting on the Draft Program EIR; (3) responses by MTC and ABAG to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process, including Master responses to comments; (4) revisions to the Draft Program EIR; and (5) all appendices to the Final Program EIR; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ABAG, as a decision-making body, certifies that the Program EIR (attached hereto as Attachment C and incorporated herein by this reference) has been completed in compliance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ABAG certifies that it has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final Program EIR prior to approving the plan; and be it further

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RESOLVED, that ABAG certifies that the Final Program EIR represents the independent judgement and analysis of MTC and ABAG; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ABAG direct staff to immediately (within five working days): (a) file a Notice of Determination documenting these decisions (CEQA Guidelines § 15094); (b) retain a copy of the certified Final Program EIR as a public record; and (c) provide a copy of the certified Final Program EIR to the planning agencies of all member jurisdictions and each responsible agency (CEQA Guidelines § 15095).

RESOLVED the Executive Director of ABAG is authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

The foregoing was adopted by the Executive Board this 19th day of March, 2026.

Belia Ramos
President

CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL

I, the undersigned, the appointed and qualified Clerk of the Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments (Association), do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Executive Board of the Association at a duly called and noticed meeting held in San Francisco, California, and at other remote locations, on this 19th day of March, 2026.

Frederick Castro
Clerk of the Board