

Session 1: Normative Dimension of Resilience

Arrietta Chakos

The Building Blocks of Resilience: Regional Implementation in the SF Bay Area

Abstract:

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) is the regional planning agency for the San Francisco Bay Area's nine counties and 101 cities, home to more than seven million people. Through ongoing regional resilience and long-term recovery planning, the council of governments leverages existing municipal planning and expands institutional collaboration.

The agency has pioneered hazards' identification and risk mitigation planning to support Bay Area cities and counties since 1974. By sharing scientific and technical information in accessible ways, ABAG works with local leaders to enact sound public policy. ABAG provides model policies and programs so communities can readily adopt mitigation and recovery plans. Regional resilience has been improved through adoption of ABAG guidance on improved safety retrofits, better enforcement of building codes, training and education, and financial incentives to promote community resilience.

Integrating Regional Implementation

ABAG supports development of place-based, indigenous policies and solutions that align with local community values. ABAG is developing best practice guidance for resilience actions, and working closely with cities to implement actions tailored to local implementation.

The findings from policy and research projects: the Local Government Resilience (Policy) Toolkit project; the Housing & Community Risk project; Plan Bay Area; a Regional Prosperity Consortium; and, a Regional Resilience Plan will support member cities to enact state-of-the-practice public policy to strengthen human and built-environment systems.

National Initiatives Promote Resilience

These efforts are closely connected with a companion initiative launched by the Rockefeller Foundation—the 100 Resilient Cities. Three communities of the first 33 communities selected for this prestigious program are located in the Bay Area—San Francisco, Berkeley and Oakland—the only cluster of regional jurisdictions chosen. As well, the National Academy of Sciences' Resilience Roundtable is another national effort with which the ABAG planning is linked.

Together with regional partners, Bay Area communities and the support of national initiatives, ABAG is the institutional hub for regional adoption of resilience practices. The agency works to infuse development of local general plans, hazard mitigation plans, climate adaptation plans, throughout the region with specific resilience building measures and to encourage communities

to craft substantive plans and implementation programs for smart, safe mitigation, adaptation and development.