



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
of the Bay Area

Established in 1959 to address regional issues and connect local Leagues

December 10, 2018

Committee to House the Bay Area (CASA)
CASA Steering Committee Co-Chairs Fred Blackwell, Leslye Corsiglia and Michael Covarrubias
CASA Steering Committee Members

Dear Co-Chairs and Steering Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area strongly supports regional approaches to problem solving and actively participated in the development of Plan Bay Area. We are pleased to see the recommendations of the CASA Technical Committee come forward for your review. We support the CASA Draft Compact as an important step towards solving the affordable housing crisis – the worst in the country – that confronts the Bay Area. We simply cannot continue to add jobs to housing at the rate of seven to one without taking action.

The Co-Chairs and members of the Technical Committee are to be commended for their work over the last 18 months. It is remarkable that so many diverse stakeholders were able to “find common ground” with only one “no” vote recorded. We appreciate the emphasis on creating housing at all levels of affordability without accelerating displacement. We encourage extensive outreach to sensitive communities that engage the residents most affected by the rapid rise in housing costs in the decision-making process. We believe the process would benefit from more transparency and targeted outreach to local government officials.

The League of Women Voters Bay Area's Social Policy-Housing position includes higher-density housing, housing near transit, inclusionary zoning, incentives for production and rehabilitation of affordable housing, and establishment of a regional trust fund among other proposals. Therefore, we agree with the principles that led to the Technical Committee's consensus around the ten elements of the Compact. We anticipate that some of the elements may be tweaked as the State Legislature refines the plan.

League of Women Voters California has identified increasing the supply of affordable housing as an issue for ongoing work and will, no doubt, review some, if not all, bills resulting from the CASA Compact. League of Women Voters Bay Area looks forward to reviewing any regional ballot measures that develop from CASA's work.

We recognize that this Compact is only the first step forward in this process and welcome the opportunity to participate in this important work.

Regards,

Madeline Kronenberg

Madeline Kronenberg
President
League of Women Voters of the Bay Area