

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC BANKING ALLIANCE - CITIES AND REGIONS STATUS

LOS ANGELES

LA City Council unanimously voted to approve a motion on October 5, 2021 calling for the study and planning of a public bank for the city of Los Angeles. This motion directs the City Legislative Analyst to release an RFP in early 2022 for consultants who will organize public comment and author a viability study and business plan for a proposed bank. The motion also requests the City Attorney work with the chosen consultant to devise the formal governance plan and constitutional orientation of the bank to existing city offices, and to ensure no conflicts of interest or perverse incentives are built into the bank's organizational structure. The motion requires the chosen consultant to have a working office in Los Angeles, and to have experience in modeling public banks and social finance entities, and to engage directly with Angelenos to set the priorities and principles of their financial institution. The plan formed by the consultant will constitute the city's application to the state for a bank charter, thereby eventually authorizing the formation of the LA public bank.

The LA public bank is championed by Councilmembers Curren Price, Nithya Raman, Kevin de León, Paul Krekorian, Monica Rodriguez, and Mike Bonin. Endorsements include: Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 770, UNITE HERE 11, SEIU 721, LA County Democratic Party, Sunrise Movement LA, LA Forward, ACCE, and Indivisible California, among over 100 local and regional organizations.

Update: the City of Los Angeles public bank RFP is expected to be released in April 2022.

SAN FRANCISCO

In January 2021, Supervisor Dean Preston introduced the Reinvest in San Francisco Ordinance, legislation to establish a public bank to assist our city's recovery from the pandemic and build a better future. After much hard work by the SFPBC, Supervisor Preston, Supervisor Connie Chan and their staffs, Reinvest in San Francisco passed with a unanimous vote of the SF Board of Supervisors on June 15, 2021.

Since its passage, Supervisors Preston and Chan collaborated with the SFPBC and the Clerk's office to lay the foundation for the success of the Working Group that gets the ball rolling for opening the bank. Some highlights include:

- Securing \$350,000 through the City's Budget process to implement Reinvest SF with the help of Budget Chair, Supervisor Matt Haney.
- Appointing a Working Group of community representatives and financial experts to oversee preparation of the business plan for our public bank application.

- Drafting and posting online the Request for Proposals (RFP) to contract with an expert banking consultancy team that will collaborate with the Working Group in developing the business and governance plans.
- Appointing an Executive Officer for the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) who will offer administrative assistance in setting up the bank.
- Recruiting a Policy Analyst who will support the efforts of the Working Group.
- Publishing articles advocating for public banking and updating our website:
<http://www.sfpUBLICbank.org>

The Working Group's first formal meeting is scheduled for February 2022 and the plans should be submitted to the SF Board of Supervisors for its approval by February 2023.

In the meantime, the Public Bank Coalition is working to gather information on the most crucial needs communities have. Additionally, we will be building support for the public bank among people in our communities by showing how a public bank can fund energy-efficient affordable housing, climate justice investments, lifelines for local small businesses and other community needs.

Update: the San Francisco City/County RFP is expected to be released by the end of March 2022.

EAST BAY

Friends of the Public Bank East Bay has made significant progress in recent months toward realizing a regional Public Bank for Alameda County and the cities of Oakland, Berkeley, and Richmond. In October, the Friends enlisted the help of public banking authority Tom Sgouros and sitting Rhode Island state senator Dawn Euer to write their viability study. The study's first draft was completed at the start of December, and the Friends are now in the process of soliciting feedback from the government agencies' finance directors.

As the viability study nears completion, the Friends are turning their focus towards fundraising to cover the Bank's business plan and startup costs. The Friends have raised over \$100,000 towards those expenses, including a \$75,000 grant from the San Francisco Foundation, and have begun searching for a Development Director to assist them with raising additional funds.

Community support and engagement remains paramount for Public Bank East Bay's creation, and the Friends are honored to have recently received endorsements from SEIU 1021, Project Equity, and My Eden Voice (which represents underserved unincorporated areas in Alameda County). Strengthening relationships and soliciting feedback from local financial institutions has also been a high priority.

Update: the East Bay Public Bank viability study was completed in March 2022. Alameda County Board of Supervisors are expected to vote to approve the study in the coming weeks.

Read the viability study: ow.ly/prgH50IgBIO

CENTRAL COAST

Eleven cities and counties along the coast of California have approved resolutions to participate in a viability study for creating a regional Central Coast Public Bank, including the Counties of Monterey, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz, and the Cities of Salinas, Santa Cruz, and Watsonville. Santa Cruz County Supervisor Zach Friend sent a letter in March 2021 requesting statements of interest in participating in the study to the five Central Coast counties: Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara.

[Central Coast Regional Bank Letter of Interest](#)

[City of Monterey Resolution Expressing Interest in Participating in a Viability Study for a Central Coast Public Bank](#)

SAN DIEGO

Public Bank San Diego is supported by a majority at the county board and on city council. In January 2021, six out of nine city council members requested funding for a public bank business plan in their year end budget priority memos. However, the Mayor did not include that money in his final budget. At the county level, Supervisor Terra Lawson Remer is championing a regional approach. She and two colleagues form a supportive majority on the five member board. The county treasurer received funding for staff training on public banking in this year's budget to increase knowledge and opinions about public banking among important future stakeholders like the county treasurer.

POMONA VALLEY

Public Bank Pomona Valley is actively working on a regional public bank covering the cities of Pomona, La Verne, Claremont, and San Dimas. Supporters include Mayor Tim Sandoval of Pomona, G. Muir Davis, Mayor Pro Tem of La Verne, Jennifer Stark, Mayor of Claremont, Sam Pedroza, Former Mayor of Claremont, John Nolte, Pomona Councilmember, among regional elected officials.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Cooperation Humboldt is leading the efforts for the Humboldt regional public bank. We have secured endorsements from the cities of Arcata and Eureka. Organizational supporters include: Humboldt Democratic Party Central Committee, Humboldt-Del Norte Central Labor Council, Green Party Central Committee, and the North Coast People's Alliance. We have received public support from County Treasurer John Barthlomew and County Auditor-Controller Karen Paz-Dominguez. We have made public presentations to the Redwood Region Economic Development Commission and the Eureka Chamber of Commerce.

We are working with colleagues in Sonoma County to host a public forum with CA State Senator Mike McGuire in 2022 to explore the feasibility of a regional public bank of the North Coast, which could cover Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt, Trinity and Del Norte Counties.

NORTH BAY

Friends of Public Banking Santa Rosa is presently looking to the model set forth by the [People for Public Banking Central Coast](#), as a viable approach to establishing a public bank within the North Coast region of the state. Advocates are working on the regional public bank concept with elected officials in Senator Mike McGuire's district including: Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt, Trinity and Del Norte Counties to solicit support in financing a viability study for a North Coast Public Bank.