



Date: November 18, 2015
To: Regional Planning Committee
From: Miriam Chion, ABAG Planning & Research Director
Subject: Overview Session December 2, 2015

We had two substantial discussions at our October session: the Plan Bay Area scenarios and the ABAG-MTC reorganization proposals. The **Plan Bay Area scenarios'** workshop created a substantial discussion that is shaping the policies, strategies and growth patterns for the three proposed scenarios. Among the various issues we covered urban growth boundaries, development feasibility, housing affordability, middle-wage jobs, community health, transit investments, scale and character of neighborhoods, etc. Over the next two months staff will be working in close collaboration with cities to take additional input on the scenarios. Public workshops on Plan Bay Area scenarios are scheduled for April 2016.

On the **ABAG-MTC reorganization proposals**, much of the discussion at the Regional Planning Committee meeting focused on the need to retain the multiple functions of ABAG as well as to support the coordination with MTC. On October 18, 2015, ABAG's Administrative Committee met to approve a resolution in support of a full merger. The same day the MTC Commission approved the full year 2015-16 grant to ABAG as well as a study of a comprehensive merger of ABAG and MTC to be completed by June 1, 2016. (See letter from Julie Pierce, ABAG President, summarizing key points from the resolutions: http://abag.ca.gov/media/2015_merger/JP_Oct_29.pdf). ABAG and MTC have released a RFQ to seek a third party consultant to carry the study. The Joint ABAG Administrative Committee and MTC Planning Committee will meet December 4, 2015 at 10:00 am to discuss criteria and principles to guide the reorganization discussion.

For the December session, we will focus on the long term **forecast** and **economic strategies**. Given the substantial job growth of the past few years and new & refined forecasting tools, the forecast for Plan Bay Area 2040 will include recent trends and a higher level of resolution on age, ethnicity and household income. The second item on the agenda will cover a Bay Area Council Economic Institute report focused on competitiveness, prosperity and resilience.

Ongoing efforts:

- Plan Bay Area local engagement: We had a local workshop with city staff in San Jose, and another is scheduled for Santa Rosa. Planning directors are already presenting Plan Bay Area at their city council meetings. ABAG and MTC staff will be joining local partners for several presentations.
- Briefing on El Niño for Cities and Counties: ABAG's Resilience Program, in collaboration with the California Office of Emergency Services, is convening panels to discuss resources, preparations by the state and utilities, and the actions each city should be taking to weather El Niño.
http://abag.ca.gov/resilience/el_nino_2015.html
- Water Trail: We have now 14 sites officially designated and a grant program to support the implementation of these sites (<http://sfbaywatertrail.org/site-owners/grant-program/>)
- The Air District is nearing completion of *Planning Healthy Places*, a guidebook that contains specific information and recommendations for reducing air pollution emissions and reducing exposure for jurisdictions to consider incorporating into local land use plans, development ordinances, or development projects. The Air District's primary goal in providing this guidebook is to build communities that are healthy, sustainable, and equitable.