

CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

Tom Butt

Mayor

Office of the Mayor

"We Can Do It!"

Office: 510.620.6503



October 7, 2015

ABAG Executive Board
MTC Executive Committee
101 Eight Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Proposed consolidation of the Association of Bay Area Governments by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Dear ABAG Executive Board and MTC Executive Committee:

I am writing as the current Chair of the West County Mayors and Supervisors Association. We are a regional planning advisory group of Mayors and County Supervisors, which include membership from cities such as El Cerrito, San Pablo, Richmond, Pinole, and Hercules, in addition to our District One and Five Supervisors who represent West Contra Costa County.

At our September 24, 2015 meeting, we voted to **oppose** the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) current proposal to defund the Association of Bay Area Government (ABAG), consolidate responsibilities currently performed by ABAG such as regional planning and research into the authority of MTC, and eliminate ABAG's governing board.

We believe this proposal, developed by MTC staff, is not in the best interest of the residents to which we have been elected to represent.

Instead, we strongly urge MTC and ABAG to collaboratively merge the two agencies into one, fairly redistribute and share authority, and preserve municipal governments' representation in regional planning efforts.

We hope that such discussions will be transparent and include input from a broad set of stakeholders from all levels of government.

Thank you for your consideration. If I can be of further assistance, please not hesitate to contact me at 510-620-6503.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Butt", is written over a white background.

Tom Butt
Mayor, City of Richmond
Chair, West County Mayors and Supervisors Association

Home of Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park

cc: West County Mayors and Supervisors Association
Contra Costa Mayors Conference
Alameda County Mayors Conference
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Alameda County Board of Supervisors
State Senator Loni Hancock
State Assemblymember Tony Thurmond