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October 29, 2015

ABAG Executive Board
MTC Board of Commissioners
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear ABAG Executive Board and MTC Board of Commissioners:

As President of the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers (MCCMC), I am writing to inform you that, at our October 28, 2015 meeting, our membership considered the proposal by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to eliminate the financial support to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) for ABAG's planning and research activities and, instead, to absorb ABAG's land use planning responsibilities and staff into MTC.

Attached is a resolution passed by our members on October 28, 2015 that outlines our thinking on this important matter of regional planning and our opposition to MTC's proposal.

We urge MTC to fully fund ABAG and abandon the proposal to take over the land use planning functions and staff which currently reside at ABAG. As the Council of Governments for the 101 cities and 9 counties in the SF Bay Area, ABAG has and should continue to perform the regional land use planning work with its members.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Denise Athas, President
Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers

cc: Mayors and Councilmembers of Marin County
Marc Levine, Assemblymember
Mike McGuire, California State Senator

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**RESOLUTION OF THE
MARIN COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS AND COUNCILMEMBERS
STATEMENT TO THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the cities and counties of the Bay area created the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) in 1961 as a joint powers agency with regional planning powers, including regional land use planning; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has also conferred specific regional land use planning powers on ABAG through the enactment of statutes such as SB 375, which directs ABAG to prepare all land use planning elements of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for the SF Bay Area and its quadrennial updates; and

WHEREAS, SB 375 also directs the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to prepare all transportation planning elements of the SCS for the SF Bay Area and its quadrennial updates; and

WHEREAS, SB 375 requires that the regional transportation plan (RTP) for the SF Bay area include the SCS into the Plan Bay Area (PBA) and the quadrennial updates prepared by both ABAG and MTC in accordance with the statutory scheme described above; and

WHEREAS, since 1993 the MTC has passed-through State and Federal public monies to fund both its and ABAG's work; and

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2012, MTC unanimously adopted a 'funding formula' that was mutually agreed upon by both ABAG and MTC that included a specific budget for each year of the four-year period beginning FY 2013-2014 through FY 2016-2017 that fairly reflects the work being performed by ABAG to develop and implement Plan Bay Area pursuant to SB 375. The funding formula that has been unanimously affirmed each fiscal year since, provides ABAG with a multiple year budget to do its work.

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2013, the MTC unanimously adopted the Revised Funding Agreement Framework that specifically states MTC will provide funding through FY

2020-21, including funding for ABAG's work on PBA 2040 and the quadrennial updates, and

WHEREAS, the cities and counties of the SF Bay Area are engaged with ABAG on preparation of the quadrennial update in 2017 and have an immediate and direct interest in assuring that the studies underlying the SCS, PBA and other planning documents, are accurate, reasonable and consistent with local objectives and goals; and,

WHEREAS, the cities in Marin County through our representative on the Executive Committee of ABAG, are concerned that recent proposals by MTC would undermine necessary funding and effectiveness for the timely preparation of the extensive analysis and studies needed for Plan Bay Area 2040; and,

WHEREAS, the cities in Marin County do not support MTC's proposal to take over the land use planning functions and staff from ABAG; and,

WHEREAS, proposals that deviate from the Revised Funding Agreement Framework in supporting the necessary staff to prepare the SCS and PBA 2040 unwisely distracts the staff and governing boards of both ABAG and MTC from the work each needs to perform.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers requests that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission:

A. Comply with the terms of the Revised Funding Agreement Framework adopted by the MTC on February 27, 2013 by fully funding ABAG through FY 2020-2021 without any restrictions, qualifications or conditions.

B. Abandon the current effort to transfer the land use planning staff and functions from ABAG to MTC.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on October 28, 2015 by the following vote:

There was a motion/second (Furst, Corte Madera/Coler, Fairfax) to approve the Resolution. Motion passed by acclamation.

Certification of Approval

I, the undersigned, the appointed and qualified Secretary of the Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Marin County Mayors and Councilmembers at a duly called meeting held on the 28th day of October, 2015.



Sheri Hartz, Secretary