



CITY OF  
WALNUT  
CREEK

October 7, 2015

Ms. Julie Pierce, Chair  
Association of Bay Area Governments  
101 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
Oakland, CA

Mr. David Cortese, Chair  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
101 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
Oakland, CA

Dear Chairs Pierce and Cortese:

At its meeting on October 6, the Walnut Creek City Council received an update on and considered the current discussions about the possibility of the creation of a single planning agency for the Bay Area.

Walnut Creek believes in the need for and the value of regional coordination on planning of both land use and transportation. The council would accept the concept of a combined agency that addresses the land use and transportation functions for the physical growth of the region. Such a significant structural change in how regional planning occurs in the Bay Area should be pursued in a way that ensures a true multi-disciplinary approach. It is critical that transportation is coordinated with locally determined land use patterns. A comprehensive regional planning approach must embrace the values of the citizens of each city and county while promoting an optimal use of land in the region, supported by and coordinated with transportation improvements and funding.

With such an historic opportunity in front of us, Walnut Creek urges the Boards and staffs of both ABAG and MTC to take the steps necessary to ensure a successful outcome. We ask the two agencies to:

- Examine, in partnership with each other, the need for and benefits of changing the structure of our current planning system.
- Work collaboratively with Bay Area city and county stakeholders to define and agree on a statement of purpose for and mission of a combined organization, should this option be identified as the most beneficial to accomplish what is best for our region.
- Ensure transparency and public accountability in all discussions and decisions related to a potential consolidation of the two organizations.

A deliberate, collaborative process that is transparent and ensures public accountability will require time. Therefore, the Walnut Creek City Council respectfully asks that any re-structuring discussions be pursued through an open, thoughtful process. Further, the Council asks that ABAG funding be maintained during this process and, at a minimum, through June 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Simmons".

Bob Simmons  
Mayor

RECEIVED  
OCT 16 2015

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE