



March 15, 2016

ABAG Board members and
MTC Commissioners c/o
Management Partners
2107 North First Street, Ste. 470
San Jose, CA 95131

Re: ABAG/MTC Merger Study

The City of Benicia has concerns regarding the potential ABAG/MTC merger. We understand that the two agencies have hired a consultant to study the proposed merger and welcome an open and thoughtful public engagement process.

As you study the issues and develop alternatives, we would like the following to be considered:

- Any potential integrated organization should include broad representation of all communities. Every community should have a seat at the table, to ensure local representation.
- If a merger were to occur, MTC regional planning efforts should be based on local input and not be driven by top-down transportation investments.
- Any potential new agency structure should include a healthy and open dialog between land use and transportation, and should not be more forcefully weighted against one over the other.
- Historically, ABAG has provided cost effective insurance and financial expertise, as well as research and technical assistance that cities throughout the region have come to rely upon. Any potential new agency needs to continue to provide these services.

ELIZABETH PATTERSON, *Mayor*
Members of the City Council
MARK C. HUGHES, *Vice Mayor* . ALAN M. SCHWARTZMAN . TOM CAMPBELL . CHRISTINA STRAWBRIDGE

BRAD KILGER, *City Manager*
KENNETH C. PAULK, *City Treasurer*
LISA WOLFE, *City Clerk*

- The process should continue to allow for thoughtful consideration of the issues and significant and meaningful public input.

We recommend that both agencies continue to move forward deliberatively and thoughtfully with the benefit of open and transparent input from the public and local jurisdictions.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. We welcome the opportunity to engage in further discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor