



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

September 18, 2015

Ms. Julie Pierce, Chair
Association of Bay Area Governments
101 8th Street
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Proposal to Transfer
Regional Land Use Planning Staff and Associated Budget from the
Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to MTC

Chair Pierce and Members of the Executive Board:

Recently the City of Antioch became aware of an MTC proposal to transfer regional land use planning staff and associated funding from ABAG to MTC, and presumably shift all current land use planning responsibilities to MTC. It is also our understanding that this change is on a fast track, without consultation with, or an opportunity for input from, city and county governments. This raises a number of concerns and questions.

Two threshold questions come to mind: "Why the rush?" and "Why the lack of transparency?" Talk of a potential ABAG/MTC merger is not new. Consideration of such a fundamental restructuring, however, represents a major paradigm shift in regional land use planning. Discussion and consideration of such a fundamental change in the approach to regional planning, which impacts all cities and counties, should provide an outreach to all cities and counties so as to provide an opportunity for substantive questions and opinions to be considered.

We urge both ABAG and MTC to take the time necessary to properly engage stakeholders in a thoughtful discussion about how and whether this proposal should move forward.

Sincerely,

Wade Harper
Mayor

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

City of Antioch
P.O. Box 5007, 200 H Street
Antioch, California 94531-5007