

Central Labor Council Contra Costa County AFL-CIO

May 13, 2016

ABAG Administrative Committee
MTC Planning Committee
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear ABAG Administrative Committee and MTC Planning Committee Members:

I write to express our concern that the ABAG-MTC Merger Study thus far has not provided any detailed analysis or evaluation of the many potentially significant impacts to ABAG employees. Although the Contra Costa AFL-CIO Labor Council is generally supportive of the concept of developing a new unified regional planning agency, any plan to merge ABAG and MTC must address and resolve the impacts and issues related to protecting ABAG employees and retirees and their benefits and union status.

I encourage the Committees to adopt the following actions as part of the merger implementation plan. These actions are reasonable and necessary to ensure a smooth and successful transition that protects the dedicated and professional employees responsible for implementing ABAG's many programs and for the communities they serve:

1. All current ABAG employees and programs will be preserved under the new agency (alternative: until a fully-merged new agency with a new governing structure is created).
2. All ABAG staff will maintain their title and seniority and be integrated into the new agency according to their title and seniority.
3. Maintain ABAG employee Union status until the new agency and new governing structure is formalized.
4. Until a new agency and new governing structure is formalized, any changes to the terms of employment contractually agreed upon between SEIU 1021 and ABAG must be approved and/or negotiated by SEIU 1021.
5. Guarantee card check neutrality and the opportunity for employees to explore unionization within the new agency.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

6. Ensure that all organizational and employee related decisions including hiring and firing must be approved by both the ABAG Executive Board and MTC Commission until the final governing structure and authority is formalized.
7. The new agency will honor all retirement benefits promised to current, former, and retired ABAG employees and assume all financial and other obligations, commitments, and liabilities for ABAG pensions, medical retirement benefits, and other retirement benefits.
8. Create a labor integration committee that includes SEIU 1021 representatives and has the authority to negotiate the terms of employee salary and benefits integration in the new agency.
9. Create an independent integration oversight committee that includes labor representatives with authority to decide and implement integration policies and plans.
10. Hire a consultant to develop a plan for and facilitate the integration of ABAG and MTC staff cultures and functions.

The Contra Costa AFL-CIO Labor Council would like to offer its support to the Joint Committee and Management Partners to develop a successful Merger Study that creates a stronger regional planning agency while protecting the people who make those programs successful.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (925) 228-0161 if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Steve Older
President



Margaret Hanlon Gradie
Executive Director

CC: MTC & ABAG Commissioners; Gabriel Haaland, SEIU 1021.