



May 10, 2016

ABAG Administrative Committee  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

MTC Planning Committee  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: Hayward's Position on the Merger of ABAG and MTC

Committee Members:

On May 3, 2016, the City Council of the City of Hayward discussed the potential merger of ABAG and MTC. This discussion included review of the potential merger and the recently concluded study by Management Partners, along with the process by which the merger concept was initiated.

As leaders of our community, we are committed to maintaining strong local control (i.e., resisting any effort to weaken a city's ability to manage its own affairs); efficient government; fair representation for our community in all applicable arenas, particularly in the areas affecting land use; and financial stability and fiscal sustainability of any program or venture into which we enter as a municipal corporation. After review of the potential merger and the various options presented in the Management Partners Report, we believe that Option 4<sup>a</sup> is the best alternative for protecting Hayward's interests; allowing for improved efficiency in regional planning; developing a strong, inclusive process in an important regional effort; and assuring that a sustainable financial structure evolves for a combined and representative regional planning body.

As a City, our perspective is based on the following perspectives:

- Combining the two agencies likely makes sense from the perspective of good government, efficient use of resources, and elimination of duplication of effort.
- While we support regional planning, particularly as it relates to housing and transportation, there is a huge difference between "regional planning" and "regional

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<sup>a</sup> **Option 4 – Create a New Regional Agency and Governance Model**

Enter into a memorandum of understanding between MTC and ABAG to create a new governance model that integrates the MPO (MTC) and the COG (ABAG). The MOU would set forth the principles, parameters and basic terms to guide the creation of a new regional agency and governance model for the region. Until a new agency is created and integration achieved, MTC and ABAG would remain as separate, independent agencies, including their respective mission, governance structures, legal and statutory duties, responsibilities and authorities.

OFFICE OF MAYOR BARBARA HALLIDAY

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governance of planning", the latter of which is direct erosion of local control, particularly in the area of land use that is so critical to cities.

- The method by which the proposed merger was developed and initiated by MTC was off-putting, destructive to relationships, and unnecessarily divisive.

The current process that resulted in the Management Partners' recommendation raises significant concerns on many fronts: (1) It is being forced into an unreasonably short time period; (2) it is fraught with territoriality, mistrust, and poor communication; and (3) it will not result in transparency, inclusion of critical perspectives, or result in positive collaboration. In addition, selecting Option 6/7 prematurely dissolves the planning function of ABAG (and therefore threatens the very existence of ABAG in the long-term); and establishes a path seemingly pre-designed to leave governance with MTC without transparent discussion or consideration of other alternatives.

Implementing Option 4 supports one new agency evolving as a valid merger of both agencies, and not the elimination of one or the other of the existing entities. This results in a new agency to replace both ABAG and MTC. It allows both agencies to continue in their current form and duties while the consolidation discussion plays out logically and in an inclusive process. And, it allows for open and constructive dialog involving all stakeholders and the emergence of a new governance structure that is representative of all members with a balance of power among governmental entities.

Therefore, we encourage the Joint Committee and the respective Regional Agencies the Committee represents to take the immediate following actions:

1. Rescind MTC Resolution 4210;
2. Rescind ABAG Resolution 12-15;
3. Reject Management Partners' recommendation that Option 6/7 is the best alternative; and
4. Follow the guidance of Assembly Member Thurmond and the Select Committee on Regional Planning for the Bay Area and implement Option 4.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Barbara Halliday  
Mayor

cc:

MTC: Dave Cortese, Chair, Planning Committee (President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors)  
Tom Bates, Mayor, City of Berkeley  
Steve Heminger, Executive Director

ABAG: Julie Pierce, President, Administrative Committee (Council Member, Clayton)  
Bill Harrison, Chair of Finance & Personnel (Mayor, Fremont)  
Scott Haggerty, Chair Legislation & Governmental Organization Committee  
(Supervisor, Alameda County)  
Richard Valle, Alameda County Supervisor  
Jerry Thorne, Mayor, Pleasanton  
Ezra Rapport, Executive Director  
Abel Guillen, ALCo City Representative (Council Member City of Oakland)  
Annie Campbell Washington, ALCo City Representative (Council Member City of  
Oakland)  
Desley Brooks, ALCo City Representative (Council Member City of Oakland)

Assembly Member Tony Thurmond, Chair Assembly Select Committee on Regional  
Planning for the San Francisco Bay Area  
Management Partners: Lynn Dantzger  
Hayward City Council  
Fran David, City Manager, Hayward