



MILL VALLEY

Kenneth R. Wachtel
Mayor

Garry Lion
Vice Mayor

John McCauley
Councilmember

Jessica Jackson
Councilmember

Stephanie Moulton-Peters
Councilmember

James C. McCann
City Manager

October 26, 2015

Honorable Dave Cortese, Chair
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 8th Street
Oakland, CA 94607

RECEIVED
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Re: Opposition to MTC Proposal to Transfer ABAG Regional Land Use Planning Staff and Associated Funding to MTC

Dear MTC Chair Cortese and fellow Commissioners:

The City of Mill Valley strongly urges MTC to reconsider swift actions regarding consolidating the MTC and ABAG Planning Departments. The process for consideration of the proposal has been flawed. The process has not been a collaborative effort between the agencies and critical stakeholders have not been afforded the opportunity to fully evaluate the proposal or provide reflective communication regarding its merits or alternatives. Instead of the current proposal the MTC is pursuing, the City of Mill Valley recommends the MTC take the following actions:

1. Extend ABAG planning services funding to secure stability to proceed with Plan Bay Area 2040.
2. Establish an ABAG/MTC subcommittee to produce an action plan which would evaluate options to ensure the appropriate and efficient collaboration between MTC and ABAG planning departments.
3. Retain an independent third party consultant to evaluate the two planning organizations and the options provided by both the September 10th ABAG and September 18th MTC Executive Director "White Papers".
4. Schedule regular progress reports by the Executive Directors to the joint MTC Planning Committee/ABAG Administrative Committee on an action plan, joint working plan and coordination with local jurisdictions.

ABAG's governance as a Council of Governments in the Bay Area since 1961 has served the 101 cities, towns and 9 counties well. It meets the regional planning and research needs related to land use, environmental and water resources protection, disaster resilience, energy efficiencies and hazardous waste mitigation and provides

risk management financial series and staff training to numerous local governments and employees. It is, and always has been a Council of Governments, where each city and county has a voice and a vote.

Fifty five years ago, the cities formed through a Joint Powers Agreement, a Council of Governments (ABAG) to ensure local control. The concept of one city, one vote; one county, one vote provides for fair representation amongst the local governments in the SF Bay Area. We are not, especially now, interested in any unilateral dismantling of ABAG by the MTC. There is far too much to accomplish within the Region that will demand the full attention of both the ABAG and MTC staff and governing bodies.

Sincerely,



Kenneth R. Wachtel, Mayor

Copy:
Honorable Julie Pierce, Chair
Association of Bay Area Governments

Marc Levine, Assemblymember
Mike McGuire, State Senator
Dennis Michael, President
League of California Cities

Marin County Board of Supervisors
City Council, City of Mill Valley