

ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

Representing City and County Governments of the San Francisco Bay Area



October 29, 2015

Dear Local Elected Officials,

I am pleased to report that yesterday, Wednesday October 28, 2015, our ABAG Administrative Committee and the MTC Commission voted unanimously to proceed with a study of a full comprehensive merger of our two regional agencies. The original MTC proposal has been put on hold and all energies will be dedicated to this effort. This is a major milestone in our regional planning efforts. I would like to thank Supervisor Dave Cortese, Chair of MTC and ABAG Executive Board member, for leading this effort.

Key points from the resolutions:

- MTC shall provide the remaining six months of FY 2015-16 planning fund with no strings attached.
- MTC and ABAG shall retain a consultant to conduct a merger study and a merger implementation plan of both agencies.
- The study will be directed by the Joint ABAG Administrative Committee and MTC Planning Committee.
- Original proposal to transfer ABAG planners to MTC is put on hold during the merger study.

This means that the hard work begins today, discussing and defining the relationship between the two agencies in a collaborative, positive manner. We have many issues of governance, planning tasks, and organization to define. We all need to be prepared for both challenges and opportunities that we will all face during the next eight months. This process will require not only MTC and ABAG Boards but local jurisdictions and stakeholders participation if we are to create an agency that can truly serve the Bay Area.

Thank you for your engagement and contributions that allowed us to come to this point. Your letters, statements and messages have created a strong voice on the value of local collaboration and dialogue. We are here because of your input.

Cordially,

Julie

Julie Pierce
ABAG President