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September 15, 2015

Metropolitan Transportation Commissioners
Sent Via Email

Dear MTC Commissioners,

On behalf of the 100,000 members of the San Francisco Labor Council, I write to urge you vote against the proposed MTC takeover of ABAG's Plan Bay Area planners. The San Francisco Labor Council is concerned that this takeover could result in the loss of up to 60 union jobs and have negative effects on the community.

The planning department of ABAG consists of approximately 20 unionized employees. This one department accounts for 15% of ABAG's overall budget, and removing it could leave ABAG without the necessary funding to support the remaining departments in the agency which may impact another 10 unionized employees in support positions.

In addition to losing the current ABAG employees, there are currently 51 retirees, who could see their pensions and health benefits adversely affected.

ABAG funds and/or administers several grants that support community organizations and projects. Defunding ABAG, and the resulting possible dissolution of the agency, would put many, if not all of these programs and projects in serious jeopardy. This would be a disservice to the communities that benefit from these projects and programs.

There are many legal, ethical and financial reasons for board members to oppose this takeover. The Council asks that the MTC board take some time to consider all aspects and repercussions of this proposed action, and work with SEIU 1021 as the representative for these workers on any proposed future changes to the agency.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Tim Paulson
Executive Director

CC: Gabriel Haaland, SEIU 1021

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