



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA
An Inter-League Organization of the San Francisco Bay Area



October 26, 2015

Dave Cortese, Chairman
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 Eighth Street
Oakland CA 94607

RE: Commission Agenda October 28, 2015 – Functional Consolidation of Planning

Dear Chair Cortese and Commission Members,

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area has reviewed both the ABAG resolution and the proposed MTC resolution on this issue. Clearly, there is no common vision on this matter.

We support restoration of full funding of ABAG for FY 2015-16, pursuant to the executed contract, and adopted MTC Budget. Funds should not be withheld from ABAG, until a plan is mutually agreed upon to transfer staff responsibilities. The allocation of funding can be reconciled as changes occur.

We continue to favor the development of a plan for consolidation of regional planning efforts, with professional consultation, and also with public participation, prior to any action to simply transfer certain planning staff from ABAG to MTC. There are broader issues to be addressed beyond saving some time and money in the Plan Bay Area process. In the meantime, ABAG needs to deal with its retiree funding issues, and MTC can, as needed, continue to question the overhead allocation it currently pays.

We look forward to working with the regional agencies in developing a plan and participating in a public process.

Sincerely,

Linda Craig

Linda Craig, President, LWVBA