

May 17, 2016

Dear ABAG General Assembly Representatives:

I retired from ABAG at the end of 2013 after working there as an Administrative Assistant in one of ABAG's Service Programs, a JPA, namely; ABAG POWER (ABAG Publicly OWned Energy Resources).

I hope that Service Programs such as ABAG POWER continue to provide valuable and much appreciated services to its members. Option 4 will enable the Service Programs of ABAG to have a place in the newly formed agency. In my opinion, with choosing Option 7, these various valuable service programs of ABAG will disappear. For example, to date we have not seen any of ABAG's service programs mentioned, neither in MTC's responses nor the Consultants' reports. They do not seem to have any importance to MTC at all.

The Program provides pooled purchasing of natural gas and electricity to local governments and special districts (member jurisdictions). Pooled purchasing enables member jurisdictions to achieve more competitive pricing from suppliers who are interested in larger and more attractive combined loads. The Pool currently purchases natural gas for 39 member jurisdictions in the Bay Area. The goal of the program is price stability and cost savings. In its 20 year history, the program has provided enormous benefits to its members including fighting several legal battles on behalf of member jurisdictions during PG&E's bankruptcy and distributing CTC credits of 20 million dollars back to its members.

The Program Manager, I and the ABAG POWER Executive Committee (board members from member jurisdictions) worked really hard to build the program to how successful it is today. Since the energy industry is enormous with many emerging new developments, our member jurisdictions find ABAG POWER to be a central place where they can come together, to learn, discuss and compare how other jurisdictions are handling the various aspects of their energy challenges. Since energy prices can have very spiky periods and create a problem of budgeting for jurisdictions, the program provides leveled billing keeping price stability for its members, which is a feature much appreciated by members.

We hope ABAG POWER continues to service its member jurisdictions for many years to come. Thank you.

Vina Maharaj

Ex- ABAG POWER Administrative Assistant