



Executive Director
Amie Fishman

September 17, 2015

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President
Matthew O. Franklin
MidPen Housing

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Association of Bay Area Governments
101 8th St.
Oakland, CA 94607

Vice President
Jacque Hoffman
Mercy Housing
Management Group

Dear MTC Commissioners and ABAG Board Members:

Secretary
Leslye Corsiglia
SV@Home

On behalf of The Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California (NPH), I write to share our perspective on the question of the relationship between ABAG and MTC and the proposal to establish a single planning department within MTC.

Treasurer
Dan Sawislak
Resources for
Community Development

Founded in 1979, NPH is the collective voice of those who support, build and finance affordable housing. We promote the proven methods of the non-profit sector and focus government policy on housing solutions for lower-income people who suffer disproportionately from the housing affordability crisis. We are 750 affordable housing developers, advocates, community leaders and businesses, working to secure resources, promote good policy, educate the public and support affordable homes as the foundation for thriving individuals, families and neighborhoods.

Chuck Cornell
Burbank Housing
Development Corporation

This is a critical juncture in the implementation and update of Plan Bay Area. Planning for and investing in affordable housing in our region are essential for Plan Bay Area to achieve its important goals.

Jack Gardner
The John Stewart
Company

Gail Gilman
Community Housing
Partnership

While we agree that a single regional planning department has great potential and could achieve greater efficiencies and even closer collaboration and cohesiveness, we want to make sure that the vitally critical land use, affordable housing and anti-displacement work currently being conducted by ABAG planning staff continues to have the prominence and priority that it deserves and the resources and staffing it demands in any scenario that is ultimately adopted.

Matt Huerta
Neighborhood Housing
Services Silicon Valley

Andrea Papanastassiou
Northern California
Community Loan Fund

This discussion should be seen as an opportunity to lift up affordable housing production, preservation and anti-displacement strategies and redouble our efforts to make sure we are creating and preserving an adequate supply of affordable housing across the region.

Cynthia Parker
BRIDGE Housing

Dan Wu
Charities Housing

We hope these discussions around a potential merger will be undertaken in a spirit of goodwill and cooperation and always maintain in mind the greater good of our region and the fundamental mission of the agencies. We value highly our partnership with the professional staff at both agencies and depend upon their ability to function in a cooperative, collaborative and effective way and produce high quality work. Our regional agencies are in charge of momentous decisions and critical activities that

Malcolm Yeung
Chinatown Community
Development Center

Executive Director
Amie Fishman

profoundly shape the social, economic and environmental well-being of the residents of the Bay Area. We need an efficient COG/MPO structure for the long-term that can adapt to new challenges and deliver results.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President
Matthew O. Franklin
MidPen Housing

We must have an effective and fully functioning staff of professional planners committed to achieving the goals of Plan Bay Area: to fully integrate transportation and land use planning in order to inform major investment decisions and to ensure a diverse and equitable region with an outstanding quality of life and full socio-economic and racial integration of our neighborhoods and communities. We pledge our strong and consistent partnership – as NPH and our members – dedicated to those visionary and necessary goals.

Vice President
Jacquie Hoffman
Mercy Housing
Management Group

Secretary
Leslye Corsiglia
SV@Home

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important subject.

Sincerely,



Amie Fishman
Executive Director
Non Profit Housing Association of Northern California (NPH)

Treasurer
Dan Sawislak
Resources for
Community Development

Chuck Cornell
Burbank Housing
Development Corporation

Jack Gardner
The John Stewart
Company

Gail Gilman
Community Housing
Partnership

Matt Huerta
Neighborhood Housing
Services Silicon Valley

Andrea Papanastassiou
Northern California
Community Loan Fund

Cynthia Parker
BRIDGE Housing

Dan Wu
Charities Housing

Malcolm Yeung
Chinatown Community
Development Center