

This is Patricia Perry's letter to the Supervisors in her home county.

May 19, 2016

Dear Supervisors,

A special ABAG General Assembly is being held this coming Thursday, May 19. This is a critical meeting which will shape this region's future. I pray and hope that Contra Costa County will be represented.

I am writing to you as a constituent asking for you to support Option 4 rather than Option 7.

Option 4 will create a new regional agency. Option 7 retains ABAG and MTC as separate agencies and transfers the entirety of the ABAG staff to MTC.

Almost every region in the United States has a combined regional governance agency, like Option 4, which addresses regional issues and where transportation does not supersede land use planning. Should the Bay Area be any different?

Option 7 will not create a situation where city and county voices will be heard. Large cities will have more votes than small cities and regional policies will reflect this.

I ask that you think long and hard before supporting Option 7 over Option 4.

MTC has a history of of "serving" this region by using its money and clout to squelch local planning. ABAG has tried to balance legislative requirements with the needs and wants of its members.

Why does ABAG exist? Cities and Counties will always need a voice for their interests. That was true in 1961 when ABAG was formed. And, it is true today. MTC has proved over the years that it cannot replace that function. When ABAG has no staff, as in Option 7, MTC will dominate regional policy.

Respectfully,

Patricia R. Perry