



November 13, 2015

Honorable Dave Cortese, Chair  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
101 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: Opposition to MTC Proposal to Transfer ABAG Regional Land Use Planning Staff and Associated Funding to MTC

Dear MTC Chair Cortese and Fellow Commissioners:

The Town of Ross strongly urges MTC to fully fund the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) through fiscal year 2020-2021 as stated in the 2012 funding agreement signed by both agencies without any conditions, and abandon efforts to transfer the ABAG land use planning functions and staff to MTC.

MTC's proposal to transfer the ABAG land use planning functions and staff to MTC has not been a collaborative effort between both agencies and numerous stakeholders including cities have not been afforded the opportunity to evaluate the proposal or provide alternative proposals for consideration.

ABAG's governance as a Council of Governments in the Bay Area since 1961 has served the 101 cities, towns and 9 counties well. It meets the regional planning and research needs related to land use, environmental and water resources protection, disaster resilience, energy efficiencies and hazardous waste mitigation and provides risk management financial series and staff training to numerous local governments and employees. It is, and always has been a Council of Governments, where each city and county has a voice and a vote.

We urge that if both the MTC and ABAG Executive Boards agree to pursue formation of one Regional agency that is the Council of Governments and the Metropolitan Planning Organization, that an independent third party consultant be retained to evaluate the existing conditions and recommend alternatives that can be discussed with the 101 cities and 9 counties of the SF Bay Area.

Fifty five years ago, the cities formed through a Joint Powers Agreement, a Council of Governments (ABAG) to ensure local control. The concept of one city, one vote; one county, one vote provides for fair representation amongst the local governments in the SF Bay Area.

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We are not, especially now, interested in any unilateral dismantling of ABAG by the MTC. There is far too much to accomplish within the Region that will demand the full attention of both the ABAG and MTC staff and governing bodies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Hoertkorn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathleen Hoertkorn  
Mayor

cc: Honorable Julie Pierce, Chair, Association of Bay Area Governments  
Marc Levine, Assemblymember  
Mike McGuire, State Senator  
Dennis Michael, President, League of California Cities  
Marin County Board of Supervisors