



Roxanne Sanchez
President

Crawford Johnson
Region A

Tom Popenuck
Region B

Gary Jimenez
Region C

Larry Bradshaw
Region D

Marcus Williams
Region E

Pamela Holmes-Morton
Secretary

Paul Camarillo
Treasurer

Karen Joubert
Vice President of Representation

Alysabeth Alexander
Vice President of Politics

Ramses Teon-Nichols
Vice President of Organizing

Executive Board

- Priscilla Agbunag
- Pete Albert
- Nancy Atwell
- Akbar Bibb
- Derrick Boutté
- Gina Castillano
- Gayle Chadwick
- Gregory Correa
- Evelyn Curiel
- Rhea Davis
- Karla Faucett
- David Fleming
- Nancy Ghanim
- Cynthia Landry
- Andrea Longoria
- Renato Pena
- Patricia Reynolds
- Mercedes Riggelman
- Valoria Russell-Benson
- Eric Stern
- Renita Terry
- Denis Villanueva
- Erika Watkins
- Jim Wise

September 15, 2015

Julie Pierce, Chair, and Board of Directors
Association of Bay Area Governments
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Proposed Merger of ABAG/MTC Plan Bay Area Staff

Dear Chair Pierce and Directors:

On behalf of the Service Employees International Union Local 1021 (SEIU 1021), I'm writing to express SEIU 1021's deep concern over the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) proposal to defund ABAG's Plan Bay Area staff and move upwards of 20 unionized ABAG Planning staff to MTC which is a non-union organization.

A loss of the over **\$4 million** for the annual budget of the Plan Bay Area staff would severely destabilize and weaken the financial outlook of ABAG and its ability to fulfill its obligations to current and past employees. If these funds are withdrawn by MTC, the potential impacts to ABAG's working families, retirees, and union include the following:

- 1) The immediate loss of up to **20** unionized jobs/individuals, and potential impacts to another **10** unionized ABAG jobs/individuals whose positions are partly supported through the MTC Plan Bay Area funds.
- 2) ABAG's inability to fulfill its unfunded liability and retiree medical benefits promised to current, former, and retired ABAG employees may result in **reductions** in pension benefits and **a loss** of the medical benefits. This would affect 51 ABAG retirees and **158** current and former ABAG employees that are vested in ABAG's retirement program. These are benefits that hard working union families worked for and are counting on for their retirement years.
- 3) The loss of the over \$4 million in funds that was promised through 2021 could financially destabilize ABAG to the point that it will not be able to fulfill its salary and benefit obligations to the remaining ABAG staff and could result in the dissolution of ABAG as an organization resulting in the loss of another **40** unionized jobs.

Executive Board Budget & Finance Committee

Theresa Breakfield Kathryn Cavness Tina Diep Richard Greenwood
Doug Marr Julie Meyers Peggy La Rossa Paul Little Nadeen Roach

100 Oak Street ▪ Oakland, CA 94607 ▪ 510-350-4527 ▪ 877-510-1021 ▪ Fax 510-451-6928
Service Employees International Union CtW, CLC ▪ www.seiu1021.org



- 4) Finally, if ABAG dissolves as an organization, it would mean the loss of many positive programs that benefit communities throughout the Bay Area including SEIU 1021 members. These programs include the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, the Pooled Liability Assurance Network (PLAN), the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN), the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP), and Finance Authority for Non-Profit Corporations (FAN), and the San Francisco Bay Water Trail.

We believe that MTC's proposed actions are illegal and anti-union activities, and we ask that ABAG's Board of Directors stand with the Bay Area's working families and demand that MTC implement the following actions to protect ABAG's working families:

- 1) Have MTC restore the annual funding promised to ABAG for Plan Bay Area staffing through 2021. Demand that MTC restore this funding at its September 23rd Commission meeting to provide security and peace of mind to ABAG employees.
- 2) Demand that MTC end its efforts for a de facto partial merger.
- 3) If the discussions between ABAG and MTC move towards full merger, have MTC participate with ABAG in a formalized open and transparent discussion regarding the merger that includes the Union's active participation in the process. Any discussion about mergers should include guiding principles that calls for the protection and preservation of worker jobs, pensions, and benefits.

We look forward to partnering with ABAG to support the hard working people at ABAG and throughout the Bay Area. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further. I can be reached at 510-207-3773 or dana.macpherson@seiu1021.org.

Sincerely,



Dana MacPherson
Field Director-East Bay