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(510) 471-3232

September 15, 2015

Ezra Rapport, Executive Director  
Association of Bay Area Governments  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-4700

RE: Regional Land Use Planning Staff and Associated FY 2015-2016 Planning Budget

Dear Mr. Rapport:

The Leadership of the Bay Area has a tremendous opportunity to evaluate and identify the best policy options for administering regional land use planning, regional fair share of affordable housing allocation, and transportation planning.

A potential merger of the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission may be one of the options that should be evaluated. The collaborative efforts of ABAG, MTC, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District successfully created Priority Development Areas, Priority Conservation Areas, and the One Bay Area Plan.

As the cities and counties of the Bay Area work together to prepare for the future, it is critical that scarce financial resources be expended in a cost-effective manner; and that cities and counties jointly prepare, administer, and implement the regional plan.

ABAG's and MTC's resources are best expended engaging a consultant to identify the best alternatives for planning and administering the future of the Bay Area. It is not appropriate to reorganize the administration of regional planning, without evaluating the options for reorganizing the structure of ABAG and MTC.

Sincerely,

Carol Dutra Vernaci

Mayor

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