



Honorable Dave Cortese, Chair
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 8th Street
Oakland, CA 94607

October 21, 2015

Frank X. Doyle
Mayor

Erin Tollini
Vice Mayor

Jim Fraser
Councilmember

Alice Fredericks
Councilmember

Emmett O'Donnell
Councilmember

Margaret A. Curran
Town Manager

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 Tiburon strongly urges MTC to abandon efforts to defund ABAG and transfer the ABAG land use planning staff to MTC before a consensus is reached on the best way to consolidate the functions of ABAG and MTC. The Town of Tiburon supports a collaborative effort to consolidate land use and transportation planning in a configuration that preserves representation by local land use authorities in decision-making. Local jurisdictions are, after all, the implementers of the regional land use/transportation linked strategies laid out in state law through SB 375.

The regional planning and research needs of the local jurisdictions - 101 cities/towns and 9 counties in the Bay Area - have been well served by ABAG as a Council of Governments since 1961. In addition to providing services to local jurisdiction members, ABAG has given each city and county a vote in the process of addressing land use, environmental and water resources protection, disaster resilience, energy efficiencies and hazardous waste mitigation. The rushed defunding of ABAG in the absence of a governance proposal to provide needed services and guarantee continued involvement of local jurisdictions is unnecessarily premature and ill-conceived.

Whether the Executive Boards of the two agencies (MTC and ABAG) agree to form one agency to serve as both a Council of Governments and the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization, or choose to pursue a goal of merging the functions of the two agencies to better integrate land use and transportation planning, the Town of Tiburon respectfully urges that an independent third party consultant be retained. The role of the consultant would include an evaluation of existing conditions and recommendations for alternatives that meet the goal of integrated land use and transportation planning with continued meaningful involvement of local jurisdictions.



Respectfully,

Frank X. Doyle

Frank X. Doyle, Mayor
Town of Tiburon

CC: Honorable Julie Pierce, Chair
Association of Bay Area Governments

Marc Levine, Assembly Member

Mike McGuire, State Senator

Dennis Michael, President
League of California Cities