

# Report on ABAG to MCCMC

February 24, 2016

**MTC PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING AND RESEARCH STAFF FROM ABAG TO MTC:** On January 22, 2016, the ABAG Administrative and MTC Planning Committees met in a workshop format along with specific stakeholder groups to discuss and reach consensus on:

- 1) the problems/issues to be solved;
- 2) statement of the objective of the study;
- 3) principles for evaluating the options which will be identified; and,
- 4) proposed community engagement and stakeholder plan.

Each of the groups provided feedback and it appears that there isn't a consensus on the proposed statement of the problem, study objectives and principles. The consultants have prepared a summary and anticipate further discussion. For further information, go to ABAG's website at: [http://abag.ca.gov/media/2015\\_merger/](http://abag.ca.gov/media/2015_merger/)

Attached is an information sheet prepared by Management Partners, the consultant team hired to conduct the merger study. They have also developed a website to provide information, keep track of the process and to identify how interested parties can participate in this important regional dialogue. The website is available at: [www.mtcabagmergerstudy.com](http://www.mtcabagmergerstudy.com)

Recently, Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins appointed a Select Committee on Bay Area Regional Planning to be chaired by Assemblymember Tony Thurmond which will address a variety of important regional issues, including affordable housing, strengthening the local economy, sea-level rise, improving public transportation systems, and the planned merger of ABAG and MTC. The Select Committee's first meeting was held on February 19<sup>th</sup>. We had a chance to talk with Assemblymember Thurmond at the ABAG Legislative workshop on February 10<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. He seems receptive to all ideas.

## **PLAN BAY AREA 2040:**

- **Scenarios.** As reported in the January 2016 report, the defined land use and transportation scenarios (3) will be released in May 2016 along with an evaluation of each scenario on how they achieve the performance targets. I highly suggest that you schedule a presentation and discussion at one of your Council meetings to obtain input. For a brief overview of the three Scenarios' that are framing the alternatives that will be released in May 2016, please refer to the November 2015 MCCMC ABAG written report.

Meanwhile, if you haven't had a Council discussion on the jobs/housing/population projections for you city/town that will be incorporated into Plan Bay Area 2017, I highly suggest it. ABAG had requested each city to review the projections and provide feedback to ABAG staff. For Novato, we had our discussion in early February and our comments to ABAG emphasized that their projections are too large.

- **Public Outreach.** The open house/public workshop is scheduled for May 21, 2016 (see attached draft agenda). I sent the attached agenda to Supervisor Kinsey, Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Diane Steinhauser and Damon Connolly on January 27, 2016 to explore whether TAM may be interested in co-sponsoring our open house/public workshop. Please let me know if you are interested in leading a session. Once we confirm a location, we will be able to start publicizing the event.
- **Equity Framework:** The Equit5y Framework for Plan Bay Area was developed in collaboration with MTC to meet SB 375 and the federal requirements of the Regional Transportation Plan. This framework will guide the planning efforts and investments to address the needs of disadvantaged populations. It is intended to recognize Communities of Concern and highlight the housing, transportation, economic development and health needs. If you are interested in learning more, please let me know.

- **Housing Production:** The housing production report provides an overview of housing production trends in relation to local plans and Plan Bay Area. This detailed data on housing production should inform the selection of housing strategies to not only increase production levels, but also address type, location and affordability levels. If you are interested in learning more or want to see how your city/town performed during the last RHNA cycle, please let me know.

**ABAG GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** The Spring General Assembly will include a vote on: 1) 2016-2017 workplan and budget and, 2) proposed ABAG bylaws that lower the threshold for a quorum of the City Delegates to 40%. This change is being proposed to address concerns regarding ABAG's ability to convene a quorum of the City Delegates to conduct the annual business meeting of the General Assembly. Following is example: At the General Assembly, there are 101 City Delegates. To convene the City Delegates, 40%, or 41 City Delegates must be present with a majority of the normal quorum or 26 City Delegates must cast affirmative votes. I will be sending out the proposed workplan and budget for 2016-2017 to the ABAG delegates/alternates in Marin.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- **February 19, 2016** – 1:30- 3:30pm – CA Assembly Select Committee meeting on Bay Area Regional Planning in the Elihu Harris State Building (Auditorium) 1515 Clay Street, Oakland
- **February 20, 2016**, 9 am to 1:30pm -- Calling the Bay Area Home: Tackling the Affordable Housing and Displacement Challenge Oakland Marriott City Center
- **February 26, 2016**, 9 am to 12pm – ABAG Administrative and MTC Planning Committee meeting in Metro Center, Oakland
- **March 25, 2016**, 9 am to 12pm – ABAG Administrative and MTC Planning Committee meeting in Metro Center, Oakland

Please direct questions to Pat Eklund, Mayor, City of Novato (phone: 415-883-9116; email: [peklund@novato.org](mailto:peklund@novato.org) or [pateklund@comcast.net](mailto:pateklund@comcast.net))

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)

# Merger Study Information Sheet

## Why conduct a merger study?

In October 2015, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) adopted a resolution to create an integrated regional planning department as the best near-term approach to carry out the land use and transportation planning responsibilities set forth in SB 375 and reduce duplication of effort. This would result in a functional consolidation of planners working on SB 375 within MTC. The respective SB 375 statutory responsibilities of ABAG and MTC would remain the same. The ABAG Administrative Committee also adopted a resolution expressing support of MTC's resolution. The actions by MTC and ABAG were accompanied by an agreement to conduct a Merger Study and in the event ABAG and MTC approve a Merger Implementation Plan prior to July 1, 2016, the functional consolidation of planning departments shall be pre-empted. In January, 2016, ABAG and MTC hired Management Partners to study the policy, management, financial, and legal issues associated with further integration, up to and including institutional merger between the agencies, and how an integration model might be implemented.

## What will be done?

**Management Partners will evaluate different integration models with respect to the following:**

- Policy considerations
- Statutory authorities
- Representation and governance
- Financial resources and budget
- Employee relations
- Agency mission
- Regional planning needs



## Background Information

### About ABAG

#### The Region's Council of Governments (COG)

ABAG was formed by a Joint Powers Authority in 1961 and is a voluntary association of the Bay Area's 101 cities and nine counties.

As a comprehensive regional planning agency, ABAG works with local governments and stakeholders to develop forecasts of the region's housing, jobs and population growth, identify regional housing needs, address resilience and climate change issues, carry out regional social, economic and land use research and prepare elements of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). ABAG also provides special services to local governments, such as affordable housing and infrastructure financing, risk management and insurance, electricity and natural gas aggregation, energy efficiency programs and emergency preparedness.

### About MTC

#### The Region's MPO and RTPA

MTC was created by the California Legislature in 1970. It is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for the region.

As the transportation planning, financing and coordinating agency for the nine Bay Area counties, MTC collaborates with other public agencies to plan and finance the region's streets, highways, and transit network. It is responsible for preparing a regional transportation plan (RTP) every four years which, under SB 375, must include and support the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

MTC annually programs and allocates roughly \$1.5 billion in transportation revenues and is responsible for an \$8+ billion debt portfolio. MTC also operates a suite of services to help travelers get around, including the 511 traveler information system, FasTrak® electronic toll collection, Clipper® transit fare card and the Freeway Service Patrol's fleet of roving tow trucks.

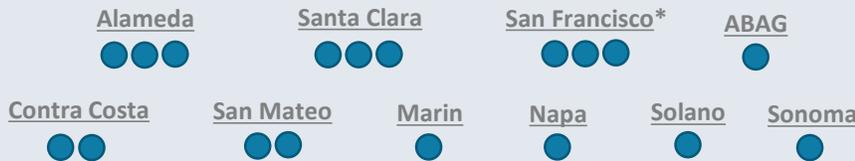
# Agency Governance Structures

**ABAG**  
 ABAG's governance structure is separated into two primary policy bodies and a variety of standing committees

**ABAG General Assembly**  
 (110 voting members)  
 1 elected official from every county, city and town



**MTC Commission**  
 (18 voting members)  
 Representation varies by county



**MTC**  
 MTC's governance structure is consolidated into one primary policy body and a variety of standing committees

\*One of the San Francisco Commissioners is selected by BCDC and must be a San Francisco resident.

## Plan Bay Area and SB 375

### What is SB 375?

SB 375 requires each of California's 18 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to include a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), both of which are required to be approved and adopted by MTC. The SCS sets forth a vision for regional growth that takes into account the region's transportation, housing, environmental, and economic needs. The SCS is the blueprint by which each region intends to meet its greenhouse gas emissions reductions target.

### What is Plan Bay Area?

Plan Bay Area is the region's first SCS. It was adopted by the ABAG Executive Board and MTC in July 2013. An updated Plan Bay Area must be completed by 2017.

### Why are both organizations involved in preparing Plan Bay Area?

In SB 375 legislation, the state outlined the roles of each organization in preparing the SCS, as well as joint responsibilities.

#### ABAG's statutory responsibilities:

- Identify the general location of uses, residential densities, and building intensities within the region
- Identify areas within the region sufficient to house the existing and projected population, considering state housing goals
- Gather and consider the best practically available scientific information regarding resource areas and farmland

#### MTC's statutory responsibilities:

- Identify a transportation network to service the transportation needs of the region
- Allow the regional transportation plan to comply with Section 176 of the federal Clean Air Act

#### Joint statutory responsibilities:

- Set forth a forecasted development pattern for the region which, when integrated with the transportation network, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions

### Management Partners wants to hear from stakeholders...

To share your perspective on this merger study, please visit the project website for a schedule of outreach events and options for giving feedback.

[www.mtcabagmergerstudy.com](http://www.mtcabagmergerstudy.com)