



August 21, 2015

Chairperson Dave Cortese and Members
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 Eighth Street
Oakland CA 94607

Via info@mtc.ca.gov

Re: MTC & ABAG Relationship

Dear Chair Cortese and Members:

The Sierra Club and Communities for a Better Environment have entered into a settlement agreement with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments over legal issues pertaining to Plan Bay Area, the joint 2013 Regional Transportation Plan.

We understand from agency memos and reports in the press that MTC is considering significant changes in its relationship with ABAG. We encourage you to abandon this disruptive effort and provide adequate funding to ABAG for the customary period.

Our settlement agreement calls for quite a bit of work to be accomplished in the near future. To cite just one example, there is to be an extensive “Analysis of PDA Performance” with details of *each* Priority Development Area, with the report to be available prior to the issuance of the Notice of Preparation of the 2017 DEIR. PDAs are one of the cornerstones of the \$292 billion Plan Bay Area’s efforts to have a Sustainable Communities Strategy to cut Greenhouse Gas emissions.

Going beyond our settlement agreement, we think the expertise of ABAG and its relationships with local municipalities are needed as the 2017 Plan Bay Area is prepared. In addition, ABAG’s wealth of experience needs to be applied to the vexing issues of risks from sea level rise and seismic dangers in PDAs. ABAG also can be instrumental in addressing the huge and troublesome problem affecting the Sustainable Communities Strategy—displacement of low income residents from PDAs.

If you have any questions about our letter, please contact Matt Williams at mwillia@mac.com.

Sincerely,



Bruce Rienzo
Loma Prieta Chapter Chair



Victoria Brandon
Redwood Chapter Chair



Rebecca Evans
San Francisco Bay Chapter Chair

cc: Jim Beall, Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing
Jim Frazier, Chair, Assembly Committee on Transportation
Ed Chau, Chair, Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development
Brian P. Kelly, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
Julie Pierce, President, ABAG