

May 13, 2016

To:: ABAG General Assembly
 ABAG Executive Board
 ABAG Administrative Committee

The future of ABAG is literally in your hands.

As past Presidents of ABAG and former city and county government elected officials we feel a strong connection to ABAG and have intimate knowledge of the good work and the myriad services the organization provides for cities and counties as the land use planning and housing organization for the region. ABAG is far more than that. Fifty-five years ago, elected officials recognized the need to come together to protect their individual and collective interests in the San Francisco Bay Area. They recognized that we are stronger together than individually. We have watched with alarm the recent action by MTC, the state-formed transportation funding organization, as it once again took steps to take over ABAG's planning functions. This time, the tool was not legislation, but the power of their dollars.

The history of decades of funding and most recently, an interagency agreement for an eight-year funding arrangement did not stand in their way. ABAG has been backed into a corner threatened with a takeover of its planning function (MTC's Resolution 4210) if the two agencies fail to agree on one of the Management Partners Study Options. The option currently being advanced by MTC's Planning Committee and ABAG's Administrative Committee is Option 7. We strongly encourage you to **vote for Option 4** which calls for a full merger of the two organizations with a new governance structure that includes ABAG, the Council of Governments. There is no legitimate reason for a transitional period with first, the transfer of staff and later a review of possible governance structure change as a second step as called for in for in Option 7. If Option 7 is accepted ABAG becomes neutered and rendered irrelevant, with no staff to

help the Executive Board and local governments with the analysis to make decisions necessary to retain their status as equal policy makers.

Let's fight to retain our voice and control of our destiny and future as a Council of Governments. Ask MTC to rescind Resolution 4210 and continue to fund ABAG until **Option 4** can be fully implemented.

Finally, before any action to transfer staff, ABAG must be assured that it will have the funding it needs to carry out its statutory land use and housing responsibilities. In addition, both ABAG and MTC should have equal responsibility in selecting an Executive Director for the new organization.

If MTC is serious about the need for collaboration, they will not be threatened by this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gwen Regalia". The script is cursive and fluid.

Gwen Regalia

Retired Mayor of Walnut Creek

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rose Jacobs Gibson". The script is cursive and elegant.

Rose Jacobs Gibson

Retired San Mateo County Supervisor