



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA  
An Inter-League Organization of the San Francisco Bay Area



January 20, 2016

John Diaz, Editor  
San Francisco Chronicle  
San Francisco, CA

To the Editor,

Regarding “Bold action needed to fix housing, transit, climate ills” (Insight, Jan. 17) and “Combine regional agencies to solve common problems” (Insight, Jan. 17): We agree with Egon Terplan and Jim Wunderman and their analyses of the state of regional governance. We support their call for a unified and more responsive consolidated agency for the Bay Area. The initial process to review the merger of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments staff, following the recent Plan Bay Area effort, is only the first step in the evaluation of the potential of a full restructuring.

The San Francisco Bay region needs a new form of consolidated governance for those issues that must be addressed regionally such as environmental concerns, transportation, land use, housing, open space protection and, now, climate change.

These issues cannot be dealt with at the local level. Regional planning needs to incorporate social equity and economic concerns, as well as to respect local land-use authority. The current structure of our regional decision-making is fragmented and overlapping. Our Bay Area is the most complicated system of any region. No doubt, the consultant, Management Partners, will document this fact and provide solutions. The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area supports this positive move forward.

*Linda Craig*

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