



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



April 22, 2016

MTC Planning Committee  
ABAG Administrative Committee  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: MTC-ABAG Merger Study Consultant's Recommendation

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area cares deeply about regional governance within our region. For more than forty years, the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area has urged that there be a regional agency that had the authority to develop integrated regional planning involving land use, air quality, transportation planning, and bay and water planning.

We want governance at the regional level to have a comprehensive, unified vision that incorporates those issues that need to be addressed regionally – those which cannot be achieved locally. We want regional entities to be able to fulfill their missions effectively and efficiently, and also to perform their activities in a manner that includes all concerned interests, and is open and transparent in the process.

The Management Partners study has appropriately addressed this larger vision, which extends beyond the staff transfer proposal contained in Resolution 4210. We find that the scope of the consultant's inquiries, the evaluation criteria that they have used, and, generally the documentation of the situation and the options, are well done and comprehensive --- especially given the limited time frame to complete their task.

In particular, the consultant's preferred option proposes an agreement to move forward with a full consolidation of ABAG and MTC, with perhaps a different form and new mission. This is an important step, because a partial or full transfer of planning staff itself would not address the need for a unified regional vision, nor deal with the cumbersome and confusing decision-making process that now exists. If there can be a consensus within our region about this vision and agreement around the solution, then the necessary state legislative solution should not be feared.

We stand ready to be part of that process going forward.

*Linda Craig*

Linda Craig, President  
League of Women Voters of the Bay Area