



## **MARCH 2016 LAC, CSC & BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY**

### **Legislative Action Committee Meeting Summary**

- **Jeffrey Cardenas presented an overview of Measure AA San Francisco Bay Restoration.**
- The San Francisco Bay is threatened due to pollution and harmful chemicals; more than 150 years of development, diking, and filling have dramatically reduced our wetlands from 200,000 acres to only 40,000 acres.
- Measure AA will restore wetlands throughout the Bay Area by:
  - Reducing trash, pollution, and harmful toxins in the Bay
  - Improving water quality
  - Restoring habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife
  - Protecting communities from flooding
  - Increasing shoreline public access.
- The measure proposes a \$12 per year parcel tax measure with revenue earmarked for the restoration of wetlands surrounding the San Francisco Bay.
- The tax is designed to automatically expire in 2037; revenue from the tax would be earmarked to restoring wetlands near the San Francisco Bay.
- The tax would produce about \$500 million in revenue over 20 years and would be the first parcel tax in the history of the state to be levied throughout an entire region encompassing nine counties.
- Measure AA contains provisions to ensure that funds are spent in the Bay Area responsibly and with adequate oversight.
- The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority is a separate government entity established by the California State Legislature through 2008 AB 2954 (Lieber) and formed in 2009. It is a regional government agency charged with raising and allocating resources for the restoration, enhancement, protection, and enjoyment of wetlands and wildlife habitat in the San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline.
- Current supporters include environmental organization such as Save the Bay, The Nature Conservancy, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, Bay Area Council, and Federal, State, County and city elected officials U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo.
- The Legislative Action Committee unanimously voted to recommend supporting Measure AA.

### **City Selection Committee Meeting**

- Liz Kniss of Palo Alto was unanimously reappointed to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to fulfill a new term expiring March 2019.
- Rod Sinks of Cupertino was unanimously reappointed to North County Cities Seat of the Recycling Waste & Reduction Commission to a fulfill a new term expiring April 2022.
- John Harpootlian of Los Altos Hills and Glenn Hendricks of Sunnyvale communicated interest in fulfilling the mayoral appointment to the Santa Clara County Cal-ID RAN Board. John Harpootlian was appointed after receiving a majority of the committee members' votes to fulfill an ongoing term.

### **Board of Directors Meeting Summary**

- **Mayor John Marchand presented an overview of connecting the San Joaquin/Tri-Valley area to Silicon Valley through the proposed BART to ACE project.**
- The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system serves the San Francisco Bay Area, connecting cities in San Mateo, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties.
- Future plans include serving cities in Santa Clara County.
- In November 2014, Measure BB was approved by Alameda County voters to fund key transportation infrastructure projects, including a BART extension from the Dublin/Pleasanton station to Isabel Avenue in Livermore.
- \$551 million total funding has been committed to the first phase, the BART extension to Isabel, and it is included in Plan Bay Area.
- Assuming a smooth process and funding availability, Phase I should be completed by 2025-2027
- The second phase of this project involves an additional 5-mile extension, which would create an inter-regional link between BART and ACE at Greenville Road in Livermore at the base of the Altamont Pass/I-580 Corridor.
- The BART to ACE project will reduce traffic across regions and freeways, and provide transportation alternatives connecting workforce housing in San Joaquin County to jobs in Silicon Valley.
- The BART to ACE project will have a positive impact on quality of life for residents living and working in Silicon Valley by enhancing inter-regional mobility, reducing traffic, and connecting workforce housing to jobs.

### **President of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Dave Cortese joined the Cities Association Board of Directors for a roundtable discussion to address the proposed MTC/ABAG integration.**

- The proposal to merge MTC and ABAG first began in 2001; Supervisor Cortese served as an ABAG Board Member while serving as a San Jose City Council Member.
- With support of ABAG and MTC Executive Directors at the time, an ad hoc committee of seven ABAG representatives and seven MTC representatives was formed to explore the merger. When the committee could not come to a consensus on the merger (primarily due to the question of governance), a

permanent Joint Policy Committee of the two organizations was formed in 2004 to continuously address pressing regional issues with its own dedicated staff resource.

- As Chair of MTC in 2015, Supervisor Cortese was motivated to revive the discussion of a merger due to issues related to collaboration between the two organization's planning departments for Plan Bay Area.
- An ad hoc committee of MTC representatives and ABAG President Julie Pierce was formed to discuss once again the proposed merger. Two options were recommended: 1) Hire a consultant to evaluate the proposed merger; or 2) Consolidate the two planning departments of the organizations.
- The committee agreed to pursue the consolidation of the two planning departments to avoid the issues raised during the previous exploration of the merger in 2001.
- Due to objections from ABAG and various stakeholders, in October 2015, a resolution was adopted by both MTC and ABAG to hire a consultant (Management Partners) to evaluate a merger of the two organizations and propose a mutually agreeable merger model. If a merger plan is not agreed upon by July 1, 2016, then the original proposal to consolidate the two planning departments will proceed.
- Management Partners already has a proposal ready for presentation; however, its consultants are currently reaching out to stakeholders to hear feedback and concerns.
- President Jim Griffith shared concerns expressed by Cities Association members:
  - The original timeline was too quick and did not provide opportunity for stakeholders to weigh in on actions taken by MTC to consolidate planning departments;
  - If planning departments are consolidated, what will happen to the other ABAG services on which cities contract?
  - Regarding governance, ABAG provides a larger forum for cities to communicate their voice, while MTC provides three seats to Santa Clara County representatives; this is a major concern.
- The concerns raised are why consolidation of the planning departments was originally proposed.
- Members should note that good regional governance has emerged from MTC, e.g. goods movement funding on SR-152, I-580, and I-880.
- Board Members look forward to a discussion with Management Partners and the proposed options.

**Management Partners Consultant Lynn Dantzker led overview on the MTC/ABAG integration proposal and requested feedback.**

- Management Partners was hired in January 2016 to evaluate different integration models with respect to policy considerations, statutory authorities, representation and governance, financial resources and budget, employee relations, agency mission, and regional planning needs.
- Lynn Dantzker reviewed the history of the two organizations. Senate Bill 375 and the recent growth in the last 5-7 years created the significant change in collaboration between the two organizations.

- A presentation of the options will occur on March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Board Members communicated their concerns regarding governance and services from ABAG.
- Based on discussion, if a merger were to occur, it is likely that legislation will be required to officiate the new governance structure.

**Per the request/letter from Congresswoman Anna Eshoo to appoint two city elected representatives and two alternates to represent Congressional District 18 (Campbell, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Saratoga) to the FAA Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals, the Cities Association Board appointed four representatives.**

- The Select Committee is a new committee the Federal Aviation Administration and Office of the Director of the San Francisco Airport (SFO) have agreed to work with to address the ongoing issue of aircraft noise and adopt regional solutions. This new committee is important because it provides a forum for communities, including those who could be affected in the future, to voice concerns about any proposal or possible changes by the FAA. The Committee is to assist in making sure noise is not shifted from one community to another.
- The four eligible candidates that submitted letters expressing their interest in serving on the FAA Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals include:
  - Mary-Lynne Bernald of Saratoga
  - Greg Scharff of Palo Alto
  - Gary Waldeck of Los Altos Hills
  - Jean Mordo of Los Altos
- Executive Director Raania Mohsen shared the receipt of over 200 emails/letters in support of Greg Scharff; emails in support of the appointments of Gary Waldeck and Greg Scharff; and further emails in support of Mary-Lynne Bernald of Saratoga.
- Members of the public (Ben Shelef and Barry Fitzgerald) communicated the importance of appointing representatives of the West Valley Cities and North County cities to achieve a geographic balance and represent competing concerns on the Select Committee; they recommended Jean Mordo of Los Altos and Mary-Lynn Bernald of Saratoga.
- The four candidates presented their qualifications justifying their appointments to the Select Committee.
- Comments from the board included the following.
  - It's important to ensure geographically balanced representation on the Select Committee to support regional solutions.
  - There is concern regarding jurisdictions requesting the shifting of flights to fly over other communities other than their own.
  - Candidates expressed their commitments to regional solutions.
- The Board voted to appoint the following Representatives:
  - Mary-Lynne Bernald of Saratoga
  - Gary Waldeck of Los Altos Hills
- The Board appointed the following Alternates:
  - Greg Scharff of Palo Alto

- Jean Mordo of Los Altos

**The Board unanimously accepted and supported President Jim Griffith's letter to City of San Jose Mayor and Council Members in support of San Jose's exploration of Community Choice Energy.**

**Legislative Action Committee (LAC) Chair Jan Pepper provided recommendation to support Measure AA SF Bay Restoration.**

- As a member of the Silicon Valley Tax Payers Association, Member of the Public (Omar Chatty) communicated position of opposition to Measure AA.
- Per the LAC's recommendation, the Board unanimously voted to support Measure AA.

**City Managers' Association Report:** City Manager Deanna Santana's report included a discussion with Management Partners regarding the proposed integration of ABAG and MTC; like Cities Association Board Members, city managers expressed concerns regarding governance and ABAG's services.

#### **Announcement**

- Save the date for the Cities Association General Membership Meeting, Thursday, May 12, 6 – 9 pm, Microsoft, Sunnyvale.