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August 20, 2015

Hon. Dave Cortese
Chair, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Chair Cortese,

I write to you in regards to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC's) recent proposal to transfer some of the land use components of Plan Bay Area, and the associated planning and research staff and funding from the Association of Bay Area Government (ABAG) to MTC.

As you know, all fifteen cities in our county are members of ABAG and rely on the agency to varying degrees for a multitude of services in addition to planning and land use, such as insurance pool, green business program, energy efficiency, Bay and Water Trail program, and economic research on population, jobs and housing. After reviewing communication exchanged between MTC and ABAG and considering a presentation delivered by Executive Director Ezra Rapport of ABAG at the August 13th Cities Association Board of Directors Meeting, we have questions and concerns.

We understand an evaluation and discussion is scheduled for the upcoming September 23rd MTC meeting. Our most immediate concern is that evaluating a proposal affecting two major regional agencies and the entire San Francisco Bay Area region next month is simply too short of a time period for us to get informed about this important decision.

As representatives of the 15 Cities of Santa Clara County, we respectfully request that you delay the evaluation and discussion by several months so that MTC can educate cities on the impact of this change and cities can better understand how their services will be affected. Providing more time will allow a more deliberate and transparent process, and potentially a thorough evaluation by an objective consultant so all affected parties understand the desired results of such a proposal.

As a trusted and longtime public official of Santa Clara County at both the local and regional level, your leadership is greatly appreciated. On behalf of Cities Association Board of

Directors, I kindly invite you and/or MTC staff to come and discuss the proposal at a future Board Meeting with our Members.

Thank you for your consideration.



Jason T. Baker
President, Cities Association of Santa Clara County

cc: Steve Heminger, Executive Director, MTC
Ezra Rapport, Executive Director, ABAG
Board of Directors, Cities Association of Santa Clara County