



Association of Bay Area Governments  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
Bay Conservation and Development Commission  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission

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## JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE — REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM

**Minutes of the Meeting of May 16, 2014**  
**Held at 10:00 AM at the Metro Center Auditorium, Oakland**

### ABAG

Scott Haggerty  
Julie Pierce  
Mark Luce

### BAAQMD

Tom Bates  
Mark Ross  
Mary Nejedly Piepho

### BCDC

John Gioia  
Anne Halsted  
Zack Wasserman  
Bradley Wagenknecht

### MTC

Jake Mackenzie  
Adrienne Tissier

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Gioia called the meeting to order.

### **2. Approval of Joint Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2014**

Ms. Nejedly Piepho noted that the City of Novato was misspelled. Move to approve with correction.

*Minutes approved.*

Chair Gioia moved Agenda item #4 to item #3 to accommodate Mr. Zack Wasserman who needed to leave the meeting early to receive a leadership award from the Bay Planning Coalition.

### **3. JPC Organizational Planning Proposal**

Ms. Allison Brooks made brief comments regarding the Organizational Planning proposal before the Committee, referencing the Memo and the draft Scope of Work included in the agenda packet.

- The process is focused on clarifying roles, responsibilities and functions of the JPC, JPC Member Agency Executive Directors, and JPC staff.
- Development of Organizational Policies, Bylaws.
- Identification of best structure for representation of JPC member agencies.
- Best practices for matching resources with work to be accomplished.
- Maximum budget is \$45,000 for up to a six-month process.

Ms. Nejedly Piepho noted that the Agenda says Report, but given that the JPC is being asked to approve hiring a consultant to help in an Organizational Planning process, it should say Action.

Public Comment - Mr. Ken Bukowski recommended that using video during Organizational Planning would allow more people to track the process.

Ms. Nejedly Piepho moved to approve and Mr. Zack Wasserman seconded the motion to hire a consultant to assist in a JPC Organizational Planning process. The motion was approved. There were no objections.

#### **4. Report on HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant – Economic Prosperity Strategy**

Ms. Miriam Chion from ABAG introduced Mr. Steven Levy from the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy, and Mr. Egon Terplan from SPUR, who presented on their research project funded through the \$5 million HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.

Mr. Levy and Mr. Terplan gave a PowerPoint presentation – *Economic Prosperity Strategy: Presentation to Joint Policy Committee* - which is posted to the JPC website. The thrust of the project was to answer the question of how do we have a robust Bay Area economy while also ensuring that low-income people are not stuck at the bottom. The PowerPoint outlined the following:

- Project Background – Project team, timeline and approach
- Relation to Economic Competitiveness: There are two parts to economic competitiveness - how do we grow jobs and how do we attract and compete for talented employees in what is a very expensive region?
- Key Findings
  - Just over one third of all Bay Area workers are low and moderate wage – earning less than \$18/hour.
  - Lower wage workers live and work everywhere – economic opportunity is a region-wide priority.
  - Education is key difference between lower-wage workers and all workers
  - There are more job openings at top and bottom than in the middle.
  - There are no “middle-wage industries” – these jobs are spread throughout the entire economy, although the distribution of wages varies.
  - The jobs that pay less than \$18/hour are not going away, and will likely grow over time. Many workers earn low wages over entire working lives.
  - Solutions require working across silos and jurisdictions.
- Key Strategies - Strategies must focus on three interrelated goals:
  - 1) Improve career pathways from low and moderate wage work to middle wage jobs.
    - Expand job-focused basic skills training for working adults with contextualized learning.
    - Establish industry-driven, evidence-based sector partnerships between employers and education/training providers.
    - Improve career navigation systems and support career pathways from K-12 and beyond.

- 2) Grow the economy, w/ emphasis on growing middle-wage jobs.
  - Focus economic development actors on industries of opportunity and encourage greater policy coordination among jurisdictions.
  - Effectively plan for a range of diverse needs and land uses to accommodate region's growth.
  - Rebuild and expand infrastructure to support economic development and job growth.
  - Manage the region's transportation as an integrated system that is easy to navigate.
  
- 3) Upgrade conditions, particularly for workers in low and moderate-wage jobs.
  - Federal and State policies are critical – funding for education training and safety net, immigration reform, minimum wage, earned income tax credit, workplace rules.
  - Local governments can bring innovation and best practice to federal and state attention.
  - Raise the floor by increasing minimum standards for all workers.
  - Organize and professionalize industries to improve wages, benefits and career ladders.
  - Establish higher standards for public investment to ensure public dollars are aligned with goals of economic opportunity.

Discussion:

Chair Gioia stated this presentation was intended to provide an update as to the factors that will help the regional agencies and other stakeholders achieve the broader goals of Plan Bay Area implementation. The discussion among the Committee that followed included the following points:

- Has there been a review of barriers to advancement along career pathways in particular professions? Are there ways to target those barriers? Mr. Levy responded by saying that mentorships, alumni groups that highlight what proved successful, etc. are good ways to address that issue.
- We have discussed expanding Plan Bay Area to consider economic competitiveness. How can we institutionalize policies to support community college consortium partnering with high schools and industry for example?
- This is bigger than just a regional issue. We need to bring these issues to a statewide audience. There is value in regional governmental bodies and others across the State of California becoming a coordinated voice in Sacramento about these issues.
- Mr. Levy said it was important to understand the connection between the things that make the quality of life great in the Bay Area great and our economic competitiveness. Jurisdictions need to stop competing against each other in the Bay Area.
- There is value in connecting skill building in high school with transitions into community colleges, university system, industrial and commercial businesses,

while also recognizing role of families, faith community and earlier childhood education.

- There would be great power in the regional transportation and land use agencies across California to work together in appealing to the Governor and state agencies to institutionalize policies that benefit all of California's economy.
- Mention was made of Northern Watershed Initiative in Contra Costa County and focus on preservation of industrial lands.
- Given that jurisdictions will continue to make decisions that are good for their constituents, we need to focus on incentives such as in the tax code, something like the Williamson Act. Also important to look at best practices (e.g. with community college in Berkeley) that can be expanded upon.

Public Comment - Ms. Pat Ecklund, from the City of Novato, commented that she is not convinced we need to expand Plan Bay Area to deal with economic competitiveness because there are already elements in there that lend themselves to this issue that can be expanded upon. She recommends that this presentation be made to the Cities Counties Schools (CCS) partnership – a statewide partnership that includes cities, counties, and school boards. The JPC should also consider inviting the Community College Consortium to present on their approach to this issue in the Bay Area, providing a point of view from the educational community, which is not represented in the room. Ms. Ecklund also shared that the City of Novato is a partner in the Life Sciences Alliance – made up of cities, education, and industry - focused on creating more educational opportunities in community colleges to provide direct transition to key industry jobs in the area.

- Ms. Tissier wanted to note that in San Mateo County, which is a relatively affluent county, only 48% of children in the district are not reading at grade level, so while its important to work at the community college level, its important to start even earlier.

## **5. Report on Cap-and-Trade Investment Plan CalEnviroScreen 2.0 Tool**

Chair Gioia made brief opening comments stating this is a really important issue. As many are aware, the Governor's budget presents a proposal on how to spend cap-and-trade revenues. In 2015 when fuels fall under the cap, those revenues will increase substantially. There is a state law that 10% of revenues need to be spent in impacted communities and 25% need to be spent in ways that benefit disadvantaged communities. The State Office of Environmental Health and Hazards Assessment (OEHHA) has developed a tool that ranks the most impacted/disadvantaged communities across the State. As a region, we need to advocate for a making sure these revenues are distributed in an equitable manner across the state so disadvantaged Bay Area communities do not lose out.

Ms. Jean Roggenkamp from BAAQMD provided an overview of the CalEnviroScreen 2.0 tool that was developed to map out disadvantaged communities across the state.

- The BAAQMD has been tracking this tool and commenting along the way. There is a comment period that is open now. BAAQMD comments are on the substance of the tool, the factors that are considered, how the tool weights different factors and how this tool will influence how cap-and-trade revenues are distributed.
- Ms. Roggenkamp went over the list of variables that are factored into the methodology for the tool and that feeds into a ranking score for each census tract in the State. A handout was provided.
- The concern is that the Bay Area doesn't have many census tracts the way the tool is modeled currently. But, that does not mean that there aren't disadvantaged Bay Area communities that are dealing with their unique issues.

#### Discussion:

- It was proposed that a joint letter be developed, signed by the JPC Executive Directors, that addresses the limitations of the CalEnviroScreen 2.0 tool. From a policy perspective, the Governor's office should be concerned that a region of the State is being left out in a big way in receiving these resources to serve disadvantaged communities.
- BAAQMD suggested that the JPC should insist that the CalEnviroScreen tool is amended by California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As a region, we are concerned about how the tool is used. At the end of the day we are talking about potentially hundreds of millions of dollars.
- A clarification was requested in that on the agenda it says it is a report, but it sounds like we are being asked for a decision. Do we have enough voting members to make a decision?
- Chair Gioia said that the agencies are seeking guidance and input on how to make the letter stronger.
- One joint letter probably makes the most sense, with all the agencies included in one letter, it indicates strength.
- BAAQMD will likely send their own letter on the technical details. It's air quality to air quality agencies.
- MTC would have concerns on the use of the CalEnviroScreen tool at all. MTC's advocacy has focused on some cap-and-trade revenue flow directly to the MPO's. She would suggest that for resources that do not flow directly to the regional agencies, that there is a localized method used for determining how those resources are distributed in the region. BAAQMD's Care Communities and MTC's Communities of Concern are existing methodologies identifying disadvantaged communities in the Bay Area.
- It was mentioned that it is important to take a statewide view, and not necessarily worry about where the money is flowing. Communities in the Central Valley likely need these resources.
- We have lost our quorum, we have four agencies that may be able to work out a joint letter, but it might be appropriate for each of them to do their own letter too. If they can work it out, that's fine. I hope they are able to do it quickly.

Public Comment - Ms. Pat Ecklund mentioned she worked for US EPA for over 35 years. She retired last year. The last decade she worked with all the states in Region 9,

and worked with all the state agencies to get their data into a centralized database. She was on the Environmental Quality Committee for California League of Cities and had OEHHA and CalEPA come and speak about the CalEnviroScreen tool, and many of the cities were very concerned about the use of this tool. She really wants to encourage the group to put caution on using the EnviroScreen tool. It should not be used for distributing money, as there are a lot of problems with the tool and the data used in the methodology.

## **6. Report on Senate Bill 1184**

Mr. Steve Goldbeck from BCDC provided an overview of Senate Bill 1184 introduced by Senator Loni Hancock, also ex-Officio to BCDC. It is focused on establishing a regional strategy to address sea level rise around San Francisco Bay. The amended language to the bill was distributed to the JPC.

The bill has two main components:

- Community planning - continuing the work of the Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) program.
- Regional Assessments – look at vulnerabilities along the shoreline and focus on strategies to help those places adapt to sea level rise.

Discussion:

- ABAG legislative committee took this up last night. And, BCDC should be thanked in making important amendments to the bill. On the last page, last paragraph, the last sentence should be struck. We should not ask state legislation to tell us how to manage our own business. We should be responsible for crafting a shoreline resiliency strategy locally and help local jurisdictions in its implementation.
- There will be an honest difference opinion about what should be done. Difficult to address this issue city by city, as action or lack of action by a city can impact other cities.
- The way the language reads now is that we are preparing legislation for the state to regulate us.
- This is BCDC sponsored legislation. The idea is to use local input into the plan. BCDC is intended to work with local governments collaboratively, with a bottom-up approach to develop a regional strategy, and ask the state legislature to help us.
- Eventually we are going to need some kind of state action to help us adopt a plan that is uniformly enacted. We want the state to support the implementation of our locally developed plan.

## **7. Adjournment**

Chair Gioia adjourned the meeting at about 12:30pm

Date Submitted:

Date Approved:

