



# ABAG/BAAQMD/MTC Joint Policy Committee

Making Regional Planning Work for  
the Bay Area

# Why regional planning?

## ● Sharing

### ■ Bay area residents and businesses share

- A unique regional geography, a common air basin, and water sheds
- A regional economy
- Regional transportation and communication systems
- A regional culture and institutions
- The Bay

## ● Interdependence

### ■ Bay area resident may

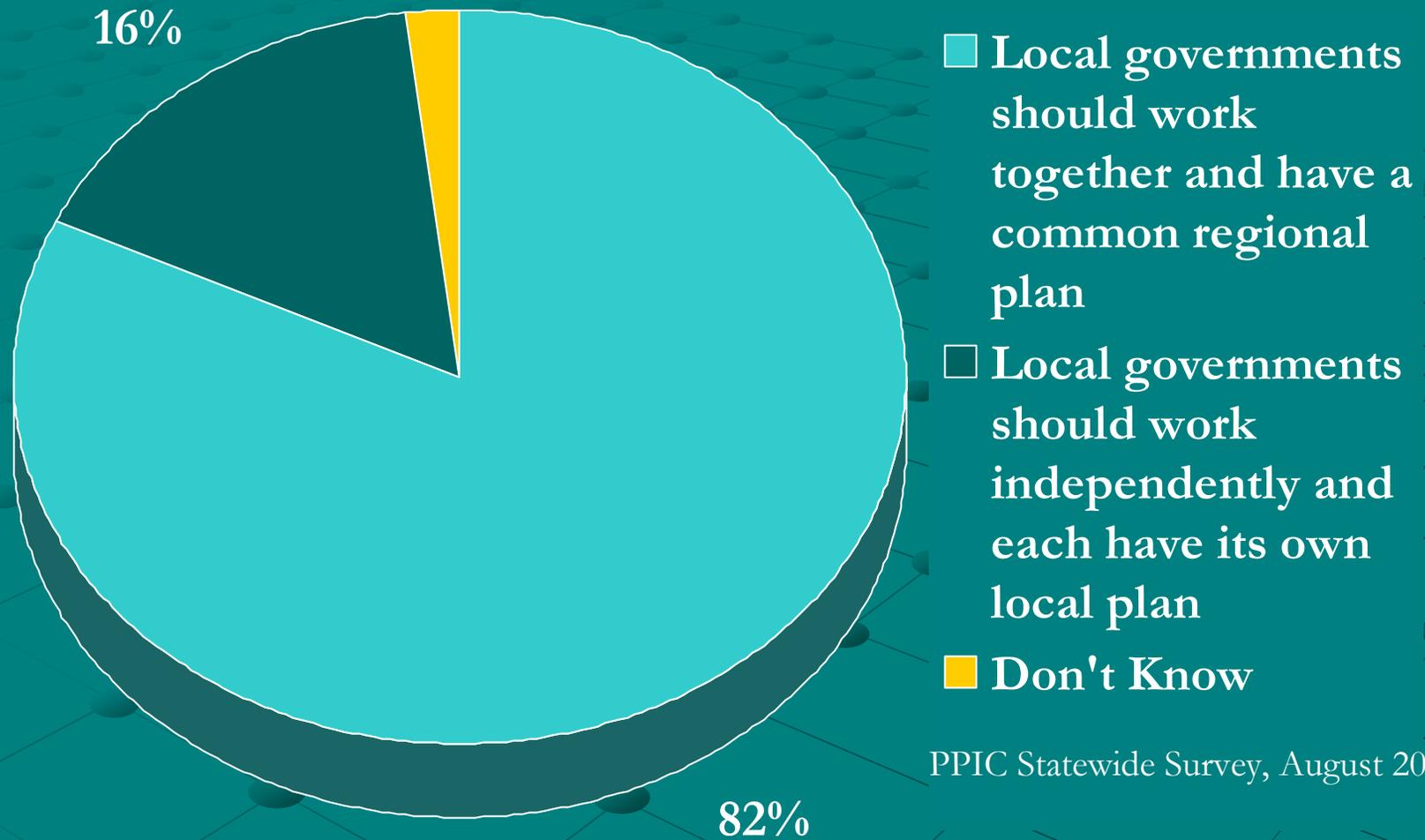
- Live in one jurisdiction, but
- Work in another, and
- Recreate and shop in still others

### ■ Businesses rely on a regional work force and serve regional markets

# Why regional planning?

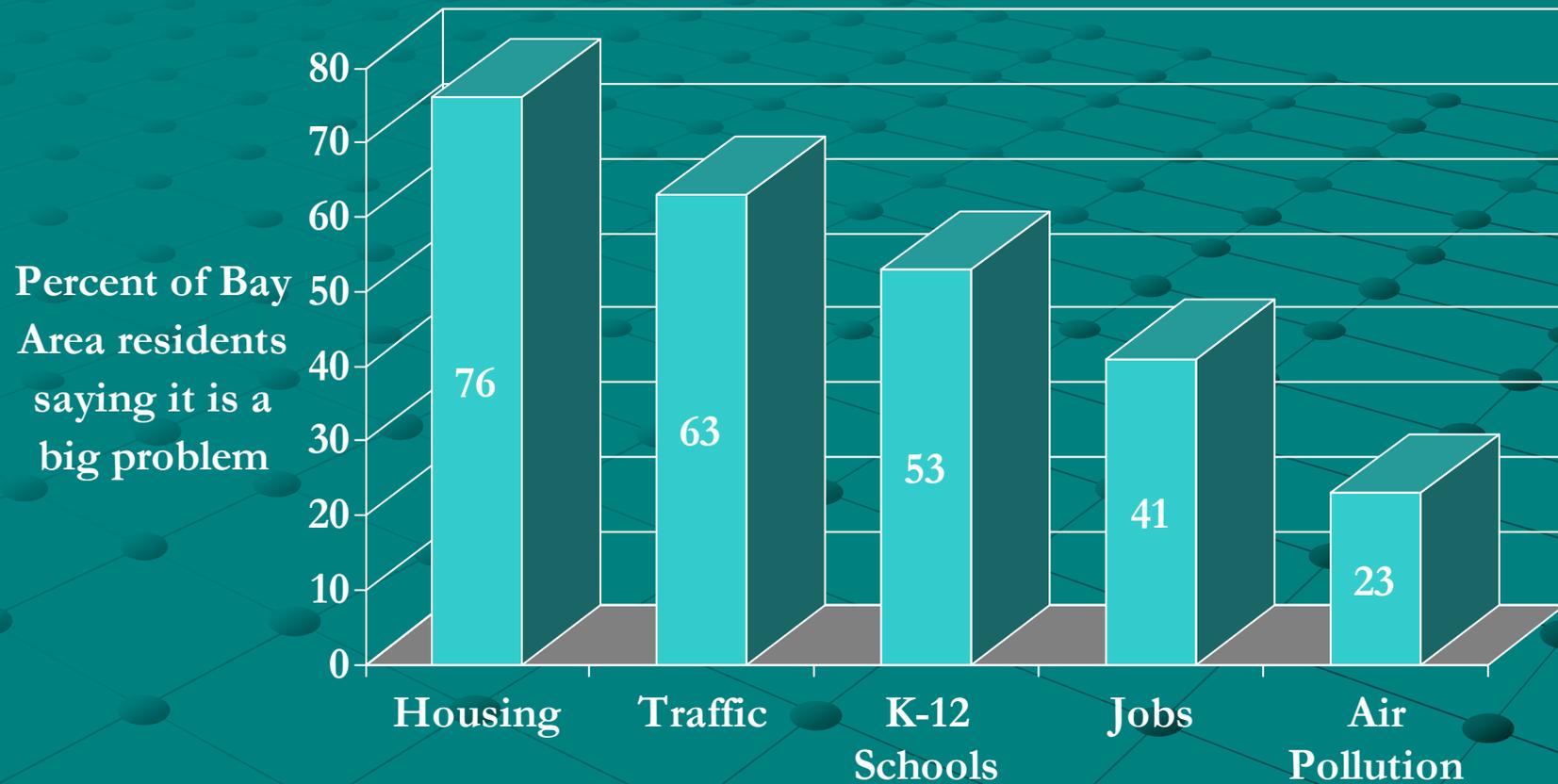
- The people who live and work here expect governments to
  - Get it right
  - Make the region work as a whole

# Residents want a regional plan



PPIC Statewide Survey, August 2004

# Big regional problems



PPIC Statewide Survey, August 2004

# Worry about the future



PPIC Statewide Survey, August 2004

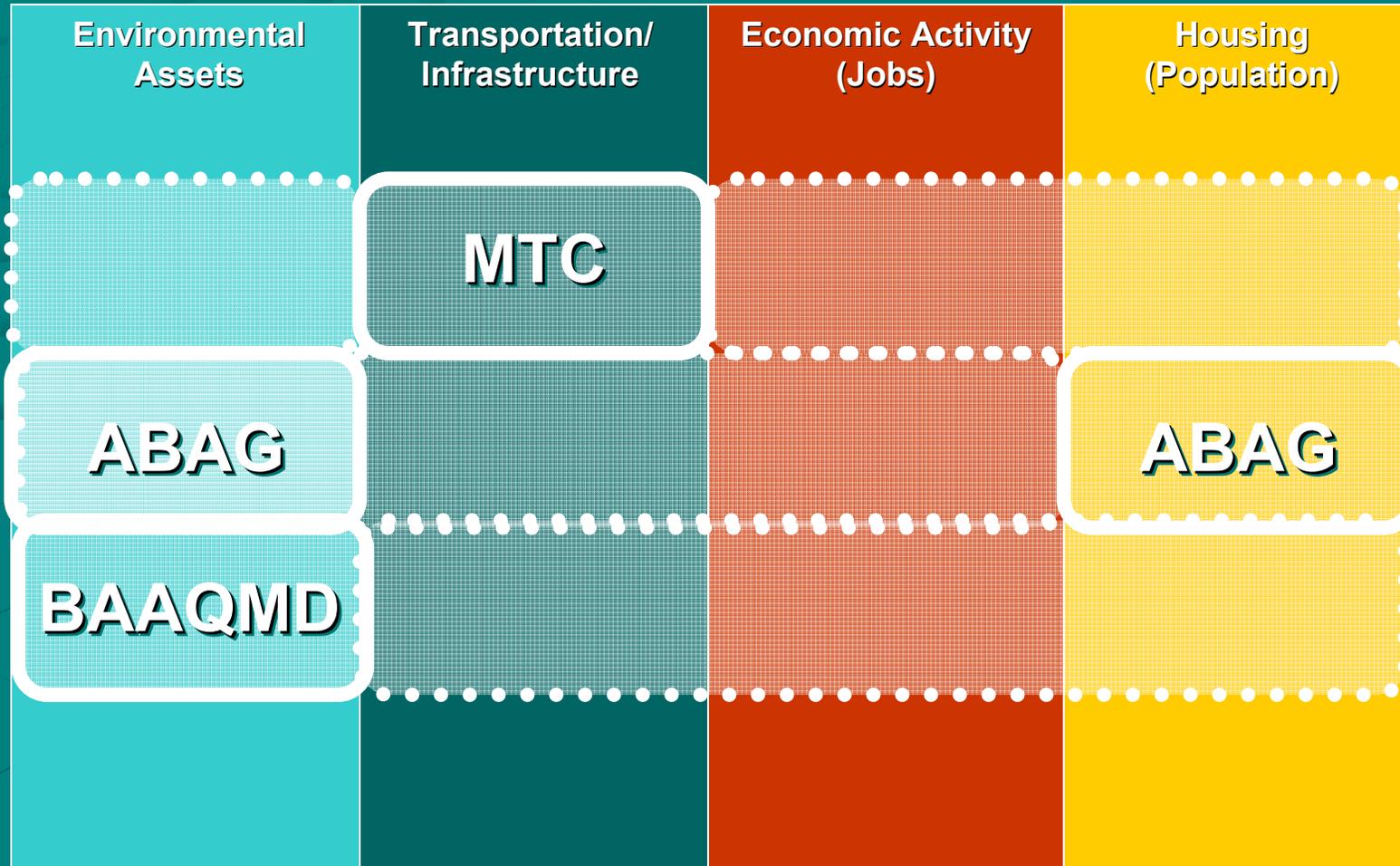
# If we just had better regional planning...

- Less congestion
- Shorter trips
- Less pollution
- More affordable housing
- More accessible open space
- Less decay of older areas
- Stronger economy
- Better job opportunities for existing residents
- Less tax poaching and more fiscal capacity
- More cooperation among governments

# But we are divided

- 9 counties
- 101 cities
- Over 1000 special-purpose districts
- Nearly 30 transit providers
- Five regional agencies
  - Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
  - Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)
  - Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)
  - Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
  - Regional Water Quality Control Board

# And specialized



# A step toward doing better

Environmental  
Assets

Transportation/  
Infrastructure

Economic Activity  
(Jobs)

Housing  
(Population)

**Joint Policy Committee  
(JPC)**



# Recent political history

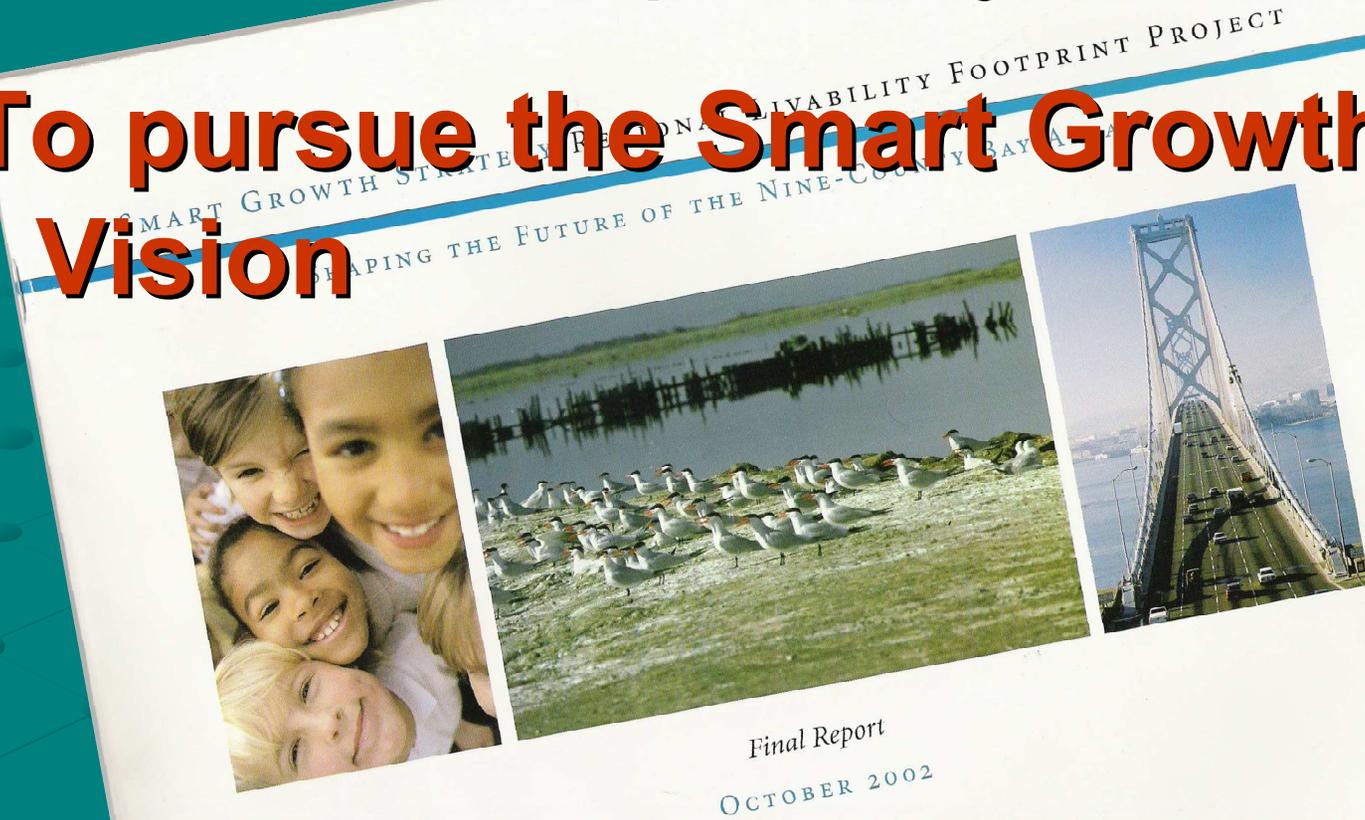
- **1/2002** SB 1243 proposes Regional Growth Council, merging ABAG and MTC planning functions
- **6/2003** ABAG-MTC Task Force formed to review ways of improving regional planning
- **12/2003** Task Force Final Report recommends working together on regional planning through Joint Policy Committee
- **6/2004** Joint Policy Committee (JPC) holds first meeting and hires regional planning program director
- **9/2004** JPC adopts initial six-month work program
- **9/2004** Governor signs SB 849 codifying JPC

# SB 849

- Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) shall join JPC.
- JPC shall prepare a report to the legislature on feasibility of consolidating MTC and ABAG functions.
- JPC shall coordinate major planning documents:
  - MTC Regional Transportation Plan;
  - ABAG Housing Needs Determination;
  - BAAQMD Ozone Attainment Plan and Clean Air Plan.
- Governor proposes adding the Secretary of Business, Transportation, and Housing to JPC.

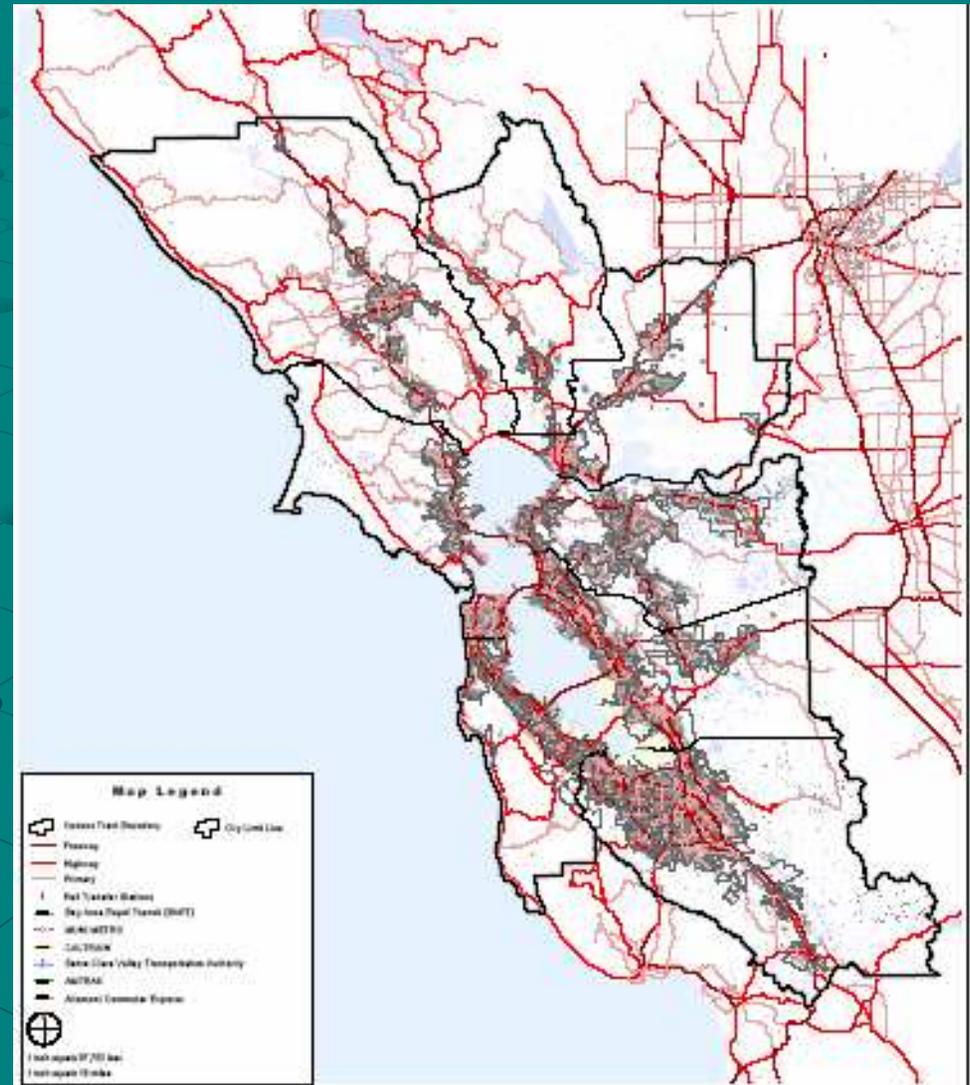
# The JPC's primary mandate

## To pursue the Smart Growth Vision



# The Smart Growth Vision

- A Network of Neighborhoods
- Concentrating Growth on the Bay Plain and in Existing Communities



# Trend growth



# Vision growth



# Trend and vision compared



# Accomplished through

- Strategic public investment
- Partnership with local, state and federal governments
- Collaboration with private and voluntary sectors
- Provision of incentives
- Communication and sharing of big ideas

# The Smart Growth Vision

- Reduces the need to travel long distances
- Facilitates transit and other non-automotive travel
- Increases the availability of affordable housing
- Uses land efficiently
- Helps protect natural assets
- Promotes social equity
- Employs existing infrastructure capacity
- Maintains and reinforces existing communities

# Two principal results

## 1. Improved Quality of Life

- Environment
  - Cleaner
  - More sustainable
  - More accessible
- Economy
  - More prosperous
  - More productive
  - More competitive
- Equity
  - More affordable
  - More just
  - More secure

## 2. Reduced Public Costs

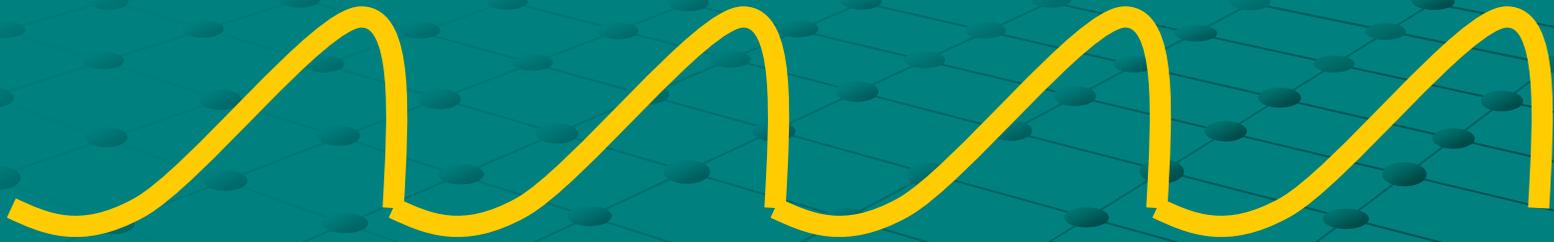
- Efficient use of existing infrastructure and services
- Less need for new capital investment
- Lower operating expenses
- Fewer subsidies

# Expectations: taking the long view

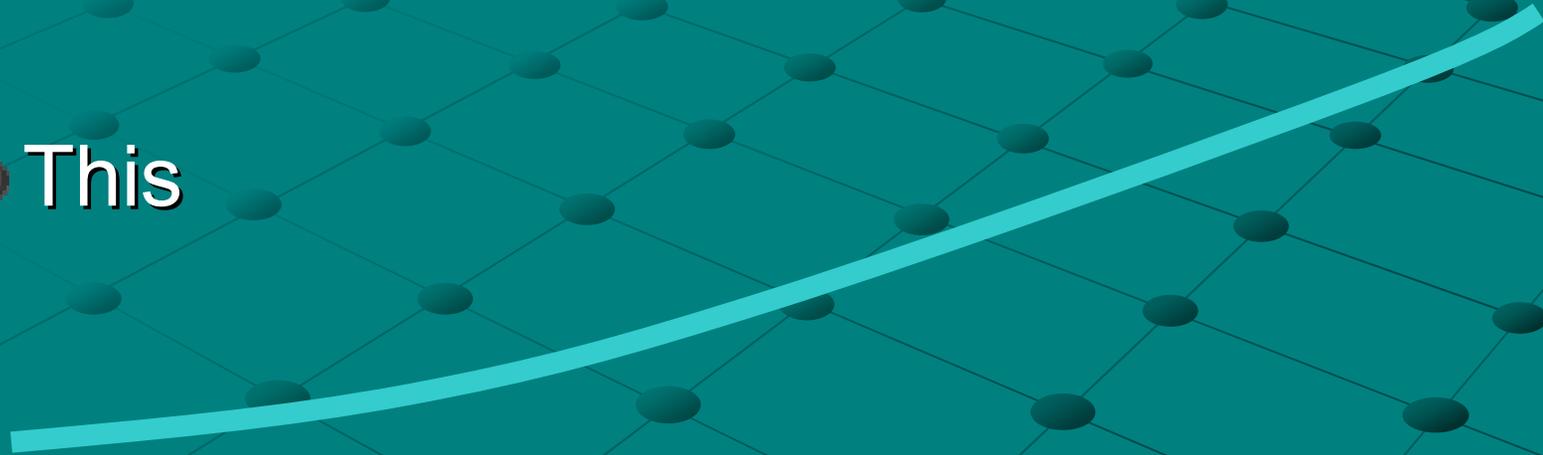
- In any one year, 99% of the region is already in place
- Over 30 years, we can influence new growth equal to 1/5 of the region...
- But only if...
  - we know what we want to do,
  - have the will to do it,
  - are persistent, and
  - have the right tools.

# Steady, measured progress

● Not this



● This



# Three key ideas

1. Collaboration  
...involving our partners
2. Focus  
...on consistent objectives
3. Commitment  
...over the long term

## Part of the long view: regional planning consolidation

*The joint policy committee shall prepare a report analyzing the feasibility of consolidating functions separately performed by ABAG and MTC. The report shall be reviewed and approved by MTC and the ABAG executive board and submitted to the Legislature by January 1, 2006.*

# Levels of Regional Planning

Environmental Assets	Transportation/ Infrastructure	Economic Activity (Jobs)	Housing (Population)
<b>REGIONAL STRATEGY</b>			

**STRATEGIC**

# Strategic planning

- Decide the basic qualities we seek in the region
- Draw out broad, multi-sector courses of action to achieve these qualities
- Ensure consistency and focus on common, enduring goals

# Good Strategy

- Simple
  - ½ dozen key ideas
- Visualizable
  - Compelling story, memorable picture
- Bold
  - Not business-as-normal
- Enduring
  - Robust enough to guide for a long time
- Shared
  - Based on genuine consensus

# Levels of Regional Planning

Environmental Assets	Transportation/ Infrastructure	Economic Activity (Jobs)	Housing (Population)
	REGIONAL STRATEGY		
CLEAN AIR	RTP	?	RHND

**SECTORAL**

# Levels of Regional Planning

Environmental Assets	Transportation/ Infrastructure	Economic Activity (Jobs)	Housing (Population)
	<b>REGIONAL STRATEGY</b>		
<b>CLEAN AIR</b>	<b>RTP</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>RHND</b>
	<b>CORRIDOR PLAN / IRP</b>		

**SUB-REGIONAL**

# Levels of Regional Planning

Environmental Assets	Transportation/ Infrastructure	Economic Activity (Jobs)	Housing (Population)
	<b>REGIONAL STRATEGY</b>		
<b>CLEAN AIR</b>	<b>RTP</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>RHND</b>
	<b>CORRIDOR PLAN / IRP</b>		
	<b>PROJECTS</b>		<b>FINANCING</b>
	<b>TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT</b>		
<b>BAY TRAIL</b>			
<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>			

# Opportunity for Consolidation

Environmental Assets	Transportation/ Infrastructure	Economic Activity (Jobs)	Housing (Population)
<b>REGIONAL STRATEGY</b>			

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

# A Hierarchy of Plans



# A Hierarchy of Plans



# Strategic Planning Activities

1. Assist JPC in maintaining and refining strategic plan
2. Monitor progress
3. Assist consistency among plans
4. Work with local jurisdictions on implementation
5. Develop policies and practices supporting strategy
6. Communicate two-way
7. Support sub-regional planning

# Consolidation Options

1. New Joint Powers Agency (JPA)
2. ABAG as a JPA
3. Interagency Task Force through Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

We can and must do better

