Submitted by: Ezra Rapport, Executive Director

Subject: Joint Policy Committee Update

Date: January 6, 2012

Executive Summary

The Joint Policy Committee (JPC) is composed of representatives from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and ABAG, and serves as a forum for coordinating regional planning efforts.

At the JPC's last meeting of December 2, 2011, members considered a proposal to hire a JPC staff coordinator and policy advisor; and a proposal regarding the JPC's potential role in facilitating the planning of a Bay Area a regional sea level rise adaptation strategy. The JPC members referred both items back to each agency for discussion prior to the next JPC meeting on January 20, 2012.

Recommended Action

Staff recommends the following:

1) Support Will Travis as the new JPC coordinator and policy advisor through a contract with MTC.

2) Support the JPC facilitating the development of a regional sea level rise adaptation strategy, with the understanding that discussions among the JPC members will continue regarding further refining the role and direction of the JPC.

Next Steps

The next JPC meeting will be held on January 20, 2012. At that meeting, the ABAG representatives on the JPC will report on the outcomes of the January 19, 2012 ABAG Executive Board meeting.

Attachment

Staff report

MEMO

Date: January 6, 2012

To: Executive Board

From: Ezra Rapport
Executive Director

Subject: **Joint Policy Committee Update**

Background

The Joint Policy Committee (JPC) is composed of representatives from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and ABAG. The JPC serves as a forum for coordinating regional planning efforts among the four agency partners. Councilmember Jane Brunner, Supervisor Dave Cortese, Mayor Mark Green, Supervisor Scott Haggerty, and Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson represent ABAG on the JPC. The JPC's recently-approved work plan includes actions to address regional economic development, energy use, and climate change.

At the JPC's last meeting of December 2, 2011, members were briefed on various work plan projects including: the regional status of electric vehicle readiness; the status of the economic evaluation being undertaken by the Bay Area Economic Council; a proposal to backfill Ted Droettboom's position for JPC staff coordinator and policy advisor; and a proposal regarding the JPC's potential role in facilitating the planning of a Bay Area regional sea level rise adaptation strategy.

During discussion, the JPC referred two items--the replacement hire, and the JPC's role in the regional sea level rise strategy-- back to each agency for discussion prior to the next JPC meeting on January 20, 2012.

JPC Staff Coordinator

At the December 2nd meeting, the Executive Directors of the regional agencies recommended that the staff coordinator position vacated by Ted Droettboom be filled in order to better support the JPC's efforts to implement the respective agencies' policies and to facilitate regional planning initiatives. The Directors recommended that Will Travis be selected as the new coordinator and policy advisor to the JPC under an MTC contract. The Directors noted that Mr. Travis retired as Executive Director of BCDC at

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the end of 2011 thus providing a unique opportunity for the JPC to retain him as an independent consultant. Mr. Travis' experience over the past four decades has focused on regional environmental and development issues along the Bay shoreline. Mr. Travis in recent prior years has focused on the need of the Bay Area to develop a sea level rise adaptation strategy, a subject that the JPC has agreed to now address. The Executive Directors believed that the qualifications of Mr. Travis could not be matched in the marketplace, and desired to retain Mr. Travis on a consulting contract immediately.

The recommendation to the JPC was that Mr. Travis be retained by MTC as a consultant for an 18 month period. Consistent with past practice, funding for the contract would be shared by the four JPC agencies subject to available funds. ABAG has disclosed to the other regional agencies that ABAG has no available funds at this time to support the JPC consulting contract. However, ABAG will provide office space and support for the position.

Bay Area Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy

On October 6, 2011, BCDC voted 24-0 to amend the *San Francisco Bay Plan* (Bay Plan) to address climate change. Among the many revisions to the Bay Plan made by the amendment is a policy regarding a regional sea level rise strategy for the Bay Area. In part, that policy states:

> "The Commission, in collaboration with the Joint Policy Committee, other regional, state and federal agencies, local governments, and the general public, should formulate a regional sea level rise adaptation strategy for protecting critical developed shoreline areas and natural ecosystems, enhancing the resilience of Bay and shoreline systems and increasing their adaptive capacity."

The JPC provides a framework for regional planning to address climate change through consistent and effective region-wide policy and can collaborate with local governments and special districts in addressing the impacts of climate change.

As described in the BCDC policy, the proposed regional sea level rise adaptation strategy should include maps of shoreline areas that are vulnerable to flooding based on projections of future sea level rise and shoreline flooding that are regularly updated in consultation with government agencies with authority over flood protection. In addition, the strategy should identify and encourage the development of long-term regional flood protection strategies that may be beyond the fiscal resources of individual local agencies. Local governments have broad authority over shoreline land use, but often limited resources to address climate change adaptation.

ABAG's Earthquake and Hazards Program identifies sea level rise as a result of climate change as a natural hazard. An estimated 270,000 people and $62 billion in economic resources in the Bay Area are at risk of flooding by the end of the century under a 55 inch sea level rise scenario. Some critical facilities at risk from sea level rise include the

Oakland and San Francisco Airports, and the Port of Oakland. Some cities are particularly vulnerable to sea level rise due to their location along the Bay and low elevations. Residential and commercial properties along the entire bay and ocean coastline are at risk, especially marinas, piers, walking and biking trails, and natural habitat.

With ABAG's participation, a regional sea level rise adaptation strategy, facilitated by the JPC, will support collaboration with local governments and a broad range of stakeholders to share information, optimize scarce resources, and create the flexibility needed to plan a course of action amidst a high degree of uncertainty.

In addition, one of the objectives of the sea level rise adaptation strategy is to facilitate implementation of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). Many identified Priority Development Areas, public infrastructure projects, and natural systems line the bay shores and are vulnerable to flooding. Ideally, the regional sea level rise adaptation strategy will determine: 1) where and how existing development should be protected and infill development encouraged; 2) where new development should be permitted; 3) where natural areas should be conserved and restored, and; 4) where the rising Bay should be allowed to migrate inland.

ABAG's active involvement through the JPC in facilitating the development of the sea level rise adaptation strategy would assist the implementation of the SCS by addressing how to protect the Bay Area's economy, public health and ecosystems from climate impacts.

At the December 2, 2011 meeting, the Executive Directors recommended that the JPC agree to take the lead in facilitating the formulation of a regional sea level rise adaptation strategy as recommended by BCDC. The members voted unanimously in support of the JPC facilitating the regional strategy, and, as with the staff hiring item, agreed to bring that recommendation back to each of their respective agencies for discussion prior to the next JPC meeting on January 20, 2012.

Subsequent Agency Actions

BAAQMD: On December 19, 2011, the Executive Committee approved the hire of Mr. Travis and agreed to expend the funds necessary to do so. The BAAQMD Executive Committee also discussed the issue of the JPC's role in climate change and sea level rise adaptation but did not bring forward any motions for a vote.

MTC: On December 21, 2011, the Executive Committee of MTC unanimously approved moving forward with Mr. Travis' contract, subject to refinements of the contract amount and the scope of work. The Executive Board of MTC also discussed the issue of the JPC role in climate change and, similarly to the BAAQMD, did not put forth any motions for a vote. The MTC Executive Board agreed to form a subcommittee of the JPC

representatives of MTC to further discuss the issue in advance of the next JPC meeting on January 20th.

ABAG Staff Recommendations

1) Staff recommends the Board approve moving forward with an MTC contract with Will Travis as the new JPC coordinator and policy advisor. MTC is currently engaged in an effort to further refine the contract amount and scope of work. No ABAG funds are available to support this contract at this time.

2) Staff recommends the Board support the JPC undertaking a lead role in facilitating the development of a regional sea level rise adaptation strategy, with the understanding that discussions among the JPC members will continue regarding further refining the role, process for regional engagement on the strategy, and future direction of the JPC.