



**METROPOLITAN
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December 3, 2003

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Dear Don:

At the conclusion of our recent ABAG-MTC Task Force meeting on November 19th, we were asked to provide a statement of the MTC's position regarding how to move forward toward greater regional effectiveness. MTC continues to support the four principles of consensus enunciated in your November 15th report. We stand ready and willing to provide the appropriate level of staff and resources to pursue this course of action, beginning in January 2004.

However, given the response from ABAG members during our meeting of the same date, we would support that the first three principles be maintained and that an alternative fourth principle be substituted which would direct a smaller group of the task force to meet for up to an additional three meetings, with continued facilitation, to see if a consensus can be reached on how to jointly organize to pursue implementation of the strategy identified in principle number three.

We believe that an organizational merger only makes sense if it is an outgrowth of enacting a comprehensive implementation strategy that clearly illustrates why such an action is necessary for true regional progress. Participating Commissioners have become skeptical that ABAG's motivation for a merger is driven more by an interest in securing its financial future than it is based in effective regional planning outcomes. Furthermore, we remain concerned that such a change would weaken MTC's effectiveness by diluting our substantial but focused responsibilities.

Independently, early in the new year, MTC intends to have an internal discussion among Commissioners regarding our current board structure and whether to seek statutory modification of it. We remain committed to working together in leading our region toward a better future, and we believe that the approach we have outlined is a compromise that can serve that purpose.

Sincerely,

Steve Kinsey
Chair

cc: MTC Task Force Members
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