



**To: MTC Chair Alfredo Pedroza, Supervisor Napa County, and Commissioners
ABAG President Jesse Arreguin, Mayor, City of Berkeley, and Executive Board**

Re: Plan Bay Area, MTC Implementation Plan, EIR report--Comment

The League of Women Voters Bay Area since 1959 has been committed to the power and impact of regional planning on land use, transportation, environmental resilience, and the economic health of the San Francisco Bay Area region and local communities. We applaud the release by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) of "Plan Bay Area 2050, A Vision for the Future." This regional long-range plan, which outlines 35 integrated strategies across four key issues (housing, the economy, transportation, and the environment), reflects League priorities we believe are key to making the Bay Area more equitable for all residents and more resilient. As the Plan proclaims, the aim is to make the region "more affordable, connected, diverse, healthy and vibrant."

Crafted to advance equity with focus on the needs of people living in Equity Priority Communities, we think Plan Bay Area 2050, MTC Implementation Plan, and EIR report will help ensure successful housing, transportation, equitable environmental strategies social equity and economic development. This underlying focus on Equity Priority Communities, which is defined as geographic areas that have concentration of both residents of color and residents with low incomes, people who have limited English proficiency, seniors, and those with disabilities, is fundamental to creating resilient equitable communities. In this equitable future of Plan Bay Area 2050, all Bay Area residents, regardless of race, age or income would and should have access to open space, clean air and water, safe housing, and a full suite of sustainable transportation choices.

That is why as part of our equity priority, we believe that the proposed *EIR Alternative 1* should be promoted. It demonstrates that focusing an even greater share of growth near high-quality transit, while scaling back investments in highways and express lanes, would yield the smallest growth footprint, the least environmental impacts, and most balanced growth pattern, while enabling the most low-income residents in Equity Priority Communities to remain in place (i.e., lowest displacement risk). Supporting this Alternative would be part of steps forward in supporting long-term strategies to protect those most at risk from environmental hazards and the effects of climate change. This means including retrofitting residential buildings against wildfires and earthquakes and protecting vulnerable communities from sea level rise. This focus and action is part of our League commitment to "Making Democracy Work."

Regards,

Sherry Smith, President
League of Women Voters Bay Area