



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 3b

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: June 7, 2013

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: SB 792 (DeSaulnier): Joint Policy Committee (JPC)

Background

SB 792 (DeSaulnier), which is now a two-year bill, would establish several new requirements for the JPC and amend certain provisions of SB 375 (Steinberg, 2008) related to the adoption of the Sustainable Communities strategy (SCS). Specifically, the bill:

- Requires the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to join the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and MTC in preparing and adopting the next SCS by taking the lead on planning issues related to criteria pollutants and toxic air contaminants, which would be added as new elements of the SCS.
- Likewise, requires the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) to join its three regional agency partners in preparing and adopting the second SCS by taking the lead on planning issues related to sea level rise, which would be added as a new element of the SCS.
- Requires MTC take the lead on “priority infrastructure needs” and “economic development opportunities and social equity goals,” which would be added as new elements of the SCS.

In addition to the SCS provisions, the bill also:

- Requires the JPC member agencies to adopt a plan to coordinate the functions common to the JPC member agencies “as deemed appropriate and feasible, that will further the goals of the member agencies and reduce redundancy.”
- Requires that the JPC develop and adopt public and community outreach and inclusive public participation policies for the development of the aforementioned plan and for JPC meetings and any meetings of the member agencies, standing committees or ad hoc or temporary committees.
- Requires that the JPC appoint an advisory committee on economic competitiveness and adopt goals and policies, in consultation with the advisory committee, related to the inclusion of economic development opportunities for all in the SCS.
- Requires that the JPC report “biannually” to the Legislature and the public at large on progress in implementing the policies and programs of the SCS and in preparing the subsequent SCS.
- Requires that BCDC relocate to 390 Main Street in San Francisco.

Recommendation: Support

Discussion

The Commission acted to oppose SB 792 in April 2013. Since that time, staff and members of the JPC have worked with Senator DeSaulnier's office on the alternative approach that was discussed and generally supported at the Legislation Committee meeting on April 12th and further discussed and supported by the JPC Executive Committee later that day.

There are a number of reasons why we believe a support position is warranted at this time. As amended, SB 792 is a worthwhile effort that focuses the JPC and its member agencies on a meaningful, achievable agenda outlined in state law.

As ABAG and MTC are nearing completion of the region's first SCS, it's appropriate to look ahead towards the second SCS that must be adopted by 2017. SB 792 is consistent with the final chapter of the draft Plan Bay Area, which explicitly outlines some of the areas not yet addressed in this first plan, namely sea level rise, local air quality concerns related to infill development, and economic development.

In addition, we support the provision that would relocate BCDC to 390 Main Street in San Francisco, bringing all JPC member agencies under one roof.

Known Positions

Support

Public Advocates, Inc.
Urban Habitat

Oppose

Metropolitan Transportation Commission



Steve Heminger