TO: Regional Advisory Working Group DATE: March 31, 2015

FR: Miriam Chion, ABAG, and Doug Johnson, MTC

RE: Request for Volunteers: Regional Equity Working Group (REWG)

Overview

Equity is a central component of sustainability, along with the economy and the environment, which together define the three E's of regional planning. ABAG, MTC, and the Air District have addressed equity with various tools over the years. In particular, MTC and ABAG used the equity analysis process with stakeholder input to assess and develop Plan Bay Area, as reported throughout the plan development process and in the Plan Bay Area Equity Report. MTC and ABAG seek to reconvene the Regional Equity Working Group (REWG) to support comprehensive equity planning and analysis in the update to Plan Bay Area.

The Regional Advisory Working Group (RAWG) provides staff-level feedback to the overall Plan Bay Area update. In addition, a Performance Working Group (see item 7) will provide input on performance targets and indicators for assessing Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) projects. The REWG will consist of members of MTC's Policy Advisory Council 10-member Equity and Access Subcommittee that addresses issues of concern to low-income communities and communities of color in combination with a comparable number of staff and non-governmental volunteers from the RAWG.

Volunteers can anticipate approximately 18 meetings over the next two years.

Purpose

The Regional Equity Working Group will advise regional agency staff on how to refine the assessment of equity measures in Plan Bay Area and to provide feedback throughout the planning process. Some of the specific tasks for the subcommittee include:

- Provide input on the equity analysis for the scenarios, including revision of performance measures and indicators as appropriate.
- Review a possible update to Communities of Concern based on updated demographic data and new research by the regional agencies
- Identify additional equity tasks that can be effectively analyzed for the Plan update.
- Review and comment on the scenarios and major projects relative to equity analysis.
- Support implementation of the public participation plan to engage low-income and minority communities.
- Recommend possible policy measures and actions for consideration in the SCS/RTP, based on the above work tasks.

Membership
The Regional Equity Working Group will include approximately10 members from the RAWG including city/county planning staff, county congestion management agency and transit agency staff, and representatives of community-based organizations and/or other non-governmental organizations. These members will be augmented by the 10-member
MTC Policy Advisory Council Equity and Access Subcommittee. Members of the REWG are expected to represent the major equity considerations in the region including affordable housing, public health, employment access, environmental justice, affordable transit, community stabilization, and schools.

Participation
The Regional Equity Working Group will be coordinated by MTC and ABAG staff, will meet regularly on the specific tasks outlined above, and will report to the full RAWG and the Policy Advisory Council. The RAWG will remain the primary forum for the multi-interest input to the Plan update, including the results of equity analyses. Meetings of the Equity Working Group would be held as needed on the second Wednesday of the month from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 pm in coordination with MTC's Policy Advisory Committee meetings.

Interested volunteers are asked to e-mail Pedro Galvao, ABAG staff, at pedrog@abag.ca.gov. Please indicate the specific interest area you represent, how you represent low-income communities or communities of color, and your contact information.

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