



November 21, 2012

Chair Tissier and Commission Members  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Dear Chair Tissier and MTC Commissioners,

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, representing the twenty local Bay Area Leagues, objects strongly to the procedures followed during the October Commission meeting that resulted in shifting \$20 million of funds from the regional agency to the County Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs). Presentation and action on this funding shift offered no opportunity for public scrutiny, deliberation, and comment; it was not subjected to review by the Commission's advisory committees, and it is a possible violation of the Brown Act.

Further, the purpose and consequences of the action are unclear, both to Commissioners and to the public. For what purposes can the shifted funds be used? Will the CMAs be bound by any guidelines for their use? Will the shift impact the funds committed to the Transit Oriented Affordable Housing fund? What are the implications of this action for the roles MTC and ABAG will play in administering the planning grants and in providing technical assistance to local jurisdictions?

In summary, the action taken to shift a sizable amount of funds from regional to local jurisdictions, with no prior notice and without scrutiny at any level of planning and oversight, was poorly thought through, possibly illegal, and lacking in clarity. We ask that action on this matter be delayed and that, if the proposed shift in funding is to be pursued, it be subject to well-established procedures that comply with the Brown Act and that give opportunities for scrutiny and comment by MTC's advisory committees and the public.

Sincerely,

Marion Taylor, President