

Agenda Item #9

FROM MTC

An Alternative Approach to Senate Bill 792 April 2013

At its meeting on April 12th, the Executive Committee of the Joint Policy Committee discussed Senate Bill 792 (DeSaulnier). Rather than pursue the course of SB 792 as amended on April 10th, the committee recommends a different approach. As ABAG and MTC are nearing completion of the region's first Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), we don't think it is too soon to begin looking ahead to the second SCS that must be adopted by 2017. Indeed, the final chapter of the draft Plan Bay Area released a few weeks ago explicitly outlines some of the "missing pieces" in this first plan that we would hope to include in the next plan. So, we suggest that SB 792 be re-cast to require four specific improvements that will significantly strengthen the second SCS, enhance regional cooperation over the long term, accrue efficiencies and cost savings, and better fulfill the purposes of Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg) by producing better planning results.

1. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District should join ABAG and MTC in preparing and adopting the second SCS by bringing to bear its expertise on planning issues related to criteria pollutants and toxic air contaminants.
2. Likewise, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) should join its three regional agency partners in preparing and adopting the second SCS by bringing to bear its expertise on planning issues related to sea level rise.
3. The four agencies should report annually to the Legislature and the public at large on their progress in preparing the second SCS and, subsequent to its adoption in 2017 and the adoption of successor plans thereafter, on their progress in implementing the plan's policies and programs.
4. BCDC should be required to relocate to the new regional agency headquarters facility at 390 Main Street in San Francisco.