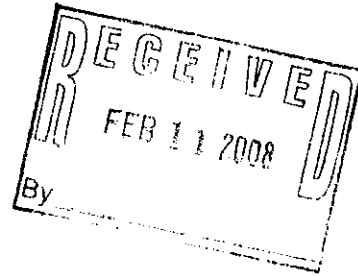


**e-vision**  
**the future**

**Bay Area Alliance for  
Sustainable Communities**

February 6, 2008

Charlie Abrams  
Authority Chair  
Contra Costa County Transportation Authority  
3478 Buskirk Avenue, Suite 100  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523



Re: Support for "Three E's" approach to Regional Transportation Plan

Dear Charlie Abrams,

As the Commission develops Transportation 2035, the 2009 update of the Bay Area's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities wishes to comment on the process and criteria used for evaluating projects and programs for inclusion in the RTP.

The Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities (Bay Area Alliance) is a multi-stakeholder coalition established in 1997 to improve the prosperity of the economy, the health of the environment and the level of social equity in the nine-county Bay Area. The coalition brings leaders from all sectors - business, government, environmental and community - together to address major regional challenges to inhabitants' quality of life.

We applaud MTC for taking a "Three E's" approach to the 2009 RTP update, and for setting specific goals and concrete targets for each of the "Three E's." Only by establishing targets and measuring progress toward our goals can we hope to achieve our shared vision for a more efficient, equitable, and environmentally sustainable region. We strongly urge MTC to carefully and rigorously evaluate each project and program proposed for inclusion in the RTP and to only approve those which best meet the "Three E's" targets.

The Bay Area Alliance has long been an advocate for smart land use: optimizing the potential for meeting land use needs for new housing and jobs through increasing average densities with infill, refill, land recycling, transit villages, development of closed military bases, and revitalization of poor and older neighborhoods while avoiding displacement.

As MTC's models clearly show, it is impossible to meet our "Three E's" targets through infrastructure investment alone. Land use strategies must play a key role in achieving our goals. The Bay Area Alliance supports the FOCUS program as a process for creating complete, livable communities. The Priority Development Areas (PDAs) that emerged from the FOCUS process advance the vision for smart land use in the Bay Area. But substantial planning and capital resources are required to ensure that the vision becomes reality. The RTP can help to ensure that the FOCUS program achieves its goals by prioritizing funding to the PDAs to support innovative land use programs that help meet the "Three E's" targets. We also encourage MTC to prioritize the funding of RTP submitted transportation projects which support the PDAs. In this vein, we therefore encourage Congestion Management Agencies to prioritize their RTP project submittals which support the PDAs.

5-1-1

Thank you for considering our comments. We look forward to continuing to actively participate in the Transportation 2035 process.

Sincerely,



Allison Quaid  
Executive Director

**Advisory Committee members:**

Kenneth Kirkey  
Planning Director  
Association of Bay Area Governments

Jim Wunderman  
President and CEO  
Bay Area Council

Juliet Ellis  
Executive Director  
Urban Habitat Program

Michele Perrault  
International Vice President  
Sierra Club

Will Travis  
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Stephanie Reyes  
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Jenna Olsen  
Supervisor, Sustainable Communities  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Van Jones  
President  
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

CC:

Chair, Alameda County Congestion Management Agency  
Chair, Contra Costa County Transportation Authority  
Chair, Transportation Authority of Marin  
Chair, Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency  
Chair, San Francisco County Transportation Authority  
Chair, City County Association of Governments of San Mateo County  
Chair, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
Chair, Solano Transportation Authority  
Chair, Sonoma County Transportation Authority