

**TO:** MP&L Committee  
**FROM:** Rick Ramacier  
General Manager

**DATE:** January 27, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** Oppose Legislation to add MTC  
Seats from Oakland & San Jose

### **Background**

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) will seek legislation this year to add a Commissioner from Oakland and a Commissioner from San Jose. This will dilute the influence and ability of our two Contra Costa County representatives on MTC to work on behalf of Contra Costa County transit interests at MTC.

Over the past 10 years or so, MTC has frequently acted in a manner not supportive of suburban bus service. Long before the state began to take away our State Transit Assistance (STA) funding, MTC began to take some of our STA to support “regional” projects that had more value to the urban core of the Bay Area. This development grew out of a desire to move money to the urban core by many political interests within the urban subareas of the Bay Area. Giving Oakland and San Jose more power on MTC will only serve to exacerbate this.

Moreover, the Transit Sustainability Project (TSP) that MTC is conducting will make significant recommendations to the Commission regarding transit funding. These recommendations could have a profound impact on bus transit in Contra Costa County. Stacking the policy deck more in the favor of Oakland and San Jose will make it harder to fight recommendations from the TSP that are detrimental to public transit in Contra Costa County.

For these reasons, staff recommends that you oppose any legislation that would add MTC seats for Oakland and San Jose, or San Francisco for that matter. Such legislation will be introduced within the next few weeks.

### **Action Requested**

Staff respectfully requests that the MP&L Committee forward to the Board of Directors, a recommendation to oppose legislation to add MTC seats for Oakland, San Jose, or San Francisco.