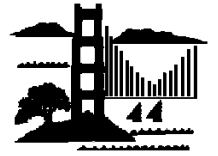




LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA

An Inter-League Organization of the San Francisco Bay Area



April 2, 2013

Steve Heminger, Executive Director sheminger@mtc.ca.gov
Amy Rein Worth, Commission Chair aworth@cityoforinda.org
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 8th Street, Oakland, CA 94607

Dear MTA Board and Staff,

RE: Plan Bay Area public meetings

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, representing the twenty local Leagues in the nine Bay Area counties, is concerned that the locations chosen for open houses and public hearings on the draft Plan Bay Area are insufficient to promote the participation of a large and diverse group of residents. In part, this is due to the fact that only one meeting is scheduled in each Bay Area County, regardless of the size of the County, and that in a County such as Alameda, even that one meeting is located in the southernmost City in the County. We also note that meetings are not scheduled in some of the most populous cities, including Oakland. Moreover, the locations appear not to be planned for easy access by transit.

It appears likely that the decision to schedule one meeting only per county, regardless of its size, will discourage attendance from all geographic areas, and that in some instances, minorities and low-income groups are likely to be among those most discouraged from attending. We ask that several additional meetings be added to the schedule, and that their locations be chosen specifically to encourage participation by a geographically and ethnically diverse group of Bay Area residents.

Thank you for your attention to this important problem.

Marion Taylor
President

Copy
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