

Date: September 25, 2019
W.I.: 1111
Referred by: Commission

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 4396

Resolution of appreciation for Ken Kirkey upon his departure from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission after 13 years of service.

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RE: Resolution of Appreciation for Ken Kirkey

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution No. 4396

WHEREAS, Ken Kirkey is leaving the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments after thirteen years of exemplary service to MTC/ABAG; and

WHEREAS, after starting at ABAG in 2006 as a Principal Planner, Ken was promoted to the Director of Planning and Research the following year, where he led a variety of programs including the consensus-based process for developing FOCUS, the Bay Area's regional blueprint plan encompassing over 150 Priority Development Areas and 100 Priority Conservation Areas nominated by local governments; and

WHEREAS, after serving at ABAG for six years, Ken joined MTC as its Planning Director in 2012 and served in that role until 2017 when he became the Director for the Regional Planning Program serving both MTC and ABAG after the two agencies' planning departments were integrated into one program; and

WHEREAS, as the Director of Planning for the Regional Planning Program, Ken served as the lead staff for Plan Bay Area, the region's long range plan that guides land use, transportation investments and housing production, and oversaw a staff of 45 advancing planning and implementation for a broad range of topics including transit oriented development; focused growth; climate adaptation and mitigation; transit planning; goods movement; economic development; housing protection, preservation, and production; active transportation; priority conservation areas; equitable outcomes; and performance monitoring; and

WHEREAS, Ken has more than 25 years of experience related to land use and transportation planning, having worked in the public, private, and non-profit sectors on regional growth management policy, general plans, specific plans, and development agreements in Northern California and New England, prior to joining MTC and ABAG; and,

WHEREAS, Ken helped marshal the Committee to House the Bay Area, or CASA for short, a blue-ribbon panel comprised of leaders from the public, private and non-profit sectors, with the aim of developing game-changing recommendations to address the region's housing crisis, which led to an ambitious 10-point compact and a widely-embraced concept of the "3Ps" of production, preservation and protection being the essential ingredients to a comprehensive housing agenda in Sacramento, and to multiple bills now pending on the Governor's desk with the promise of benefiting not just the nine Bay Area counties, but the entire State of California; and

WHEREAS, Ken adroitly fielded tough questions about planning policy before dozens of meetings of local elected officials while maintaining a composed demeanor; and

WHEREAS, Ken's ability to listen without judgment, to calmly explain controversial subjects in a relevant and easy-to-understand way for any audience, and to remain unwavering in the face of the harshest criticism and feedback from Tea Party activists, single-issue advocates, and elected officials on any and all topics is unparalleled and commendable; and

WHEREAS, Ken has deftly balanced his work at MTC/ABAG with the joys and challenges of family life, including co-parenting his teenaged son Joey with his husband, Cliff; and

WHEREAS, Ken is leaving MTC/ABAG to dive more deeply into the housing and homelessness crisis as the Chief Partnership Officer at a new NGO; and

WHEREAS, while MTC/ABAG will miss Ken's leadership in the Regional Planning Program, the Bay Area will continue to benefit from his expertise and commitment to tackling the vexing homelessness crisis in the Bay Area; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Commissioners and MTC/ABAG staff thank Ken for his dedicated service to the agencies, congratulate him on his new position, and wish him all the best in his new role.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Scott Haggarty, Chair

The above resolution was approved by the
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
at a regular meeting of the Commission held
in San Francisco, California, on September 25, 2019.