

Date: December 16, 2020
Referred by: Commission

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 4445

Resolution of appreciation for Adrienne Weil on the occasion of her retirement from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Date: December 16, 2020
W.I.: 1111
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RE: Resolution of Appreciation for Adrienne Weil

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution No. 4445

WHEREAS, Adrienne Weil is retiring from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission after a decade at the helm of the agency's legal team as General Counsel, and after a highly accomplished career that spans nearly 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Adrienne in her work at MTC drew on a deep well of experience in corporate law and litigation that provided her with expertise in public finance, project finance, government contracting, risk management, regulatory affairs and employment law as well as privacy law, mergers and acquisitions, venture capital and debt, licensing, intellectual property portfolio management, real estate and legislation; and

WHEREAS, the wise counsel provided by Adrienne helped the Commission navigate myriad challenges and daunting complexities, including the turbulent crosscurrents created by the 2017 consolidation of the MTC and ABAG staffs; and

WHEREAS, the combination of Adrienne's mastery of the California Environmental Quality Act and her skill as a lawyer led to successful outcomes in each of the multiple lawsuits filed against MTC after the Commission's 2013 adoption of Plan Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, Adrienne's guidance was instrumental in seizing the opportunity for the Bay Area Toll Authority to acquire the San Francisco property formerly known as 390 Main Street and to redevelop the semi-decrepit, 70-year-old facility as the award-winning Bay Area Metro Center, all the while fending off attacks that BATA was engaging in unlawful real estate speculation; and

WHEREAS, after examination by California's Bureau of State Audits, the course charted by Adrienne ultimately was validated in a 2012 report issued by State Auditor Elaine Howle; and

WHEREAS, having evidently failed to satisfy her appetite for real estate conquest with the acquisition, retrofit and redevelopment of the Bay Area Metro Center, Adrienne established

MTC/BATA as a landlord, during which time she assembled the necessary condominium documents, set up a condo board, and advised on leases to other public agencies and to private sector tenants; and

WHEREAS, Adrienne and her convocation of legal eagles worked closely with Chief Financial Officer Brian Mayhew and his staff to manage BATA's highly rated debt portfolio, including the issuance, refunding and refinancing of billions and billions of dollars of BATA bonds; and

WHEREAS, Adrienne played a leading role in orchestrating the development of Regional Measure 3, and its placement on the June 2018 ballot in all nine Bay Area counties, at which time the majority of voters approved a three-step increase in tolls at the region's seven state-owned toll bridges to finance a \$4.45 billion package of congestion relief projects; and

WHEREAS, illustrating anew the maxim that no good deed goes unpunished, Adrienne almost immediately was rewarded for her efforts on behalf of Regional Measure 3 with a pair of lawsuits in which BATA and MTC are named defendant, and which as a single consolidated case is now pending a hearing by the California Supreme Court, thus providing a thoughtful housewarming gift for Adrienne's successor in the Office of General Counsel; and

WHEREAS, but for a victorious December 11, 2020 ruling by the Superior Court of California for the County of San Francisco Adrienne also would have bequeathed to her successor the everlasting gobstopper of toll-related litigation, *Michael Salianni v. Bay Area Toll Authority, et al*, a six-plus-year-old case whose tortured journey through the corridors of jurisprudence was so baroque that the plaintiff's surname sometimes is confused with that of an 18th Century Italian composer who emerged as a favorite of the Hapsburg court in Vienna; and

WHEREAS, Adrienne operated the Office of General Counsel much as she might a convenience store, routinely receiving calls from Commissioners and others from seven in the morning until eleven at night; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of generosity Adrienne so consistently has manifested was signaled early in her MTC tenure when she undertook the challenge of improving the staff's email habits and provided at no cost to her new colleagues courses in email etiquette; and

WHEREAS, Adrienne anticipated the growing role of social media in Commission communication by establishing herself as an Instagram influencer with gorgeous photos captured while on safari in Africa and from such other far-flung locations as Morocco, Mexico, Hawaii, Jordan and other nations of the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, Adrienne and her widely beloved Labradoodle, Buddy, served at the vanguard of a bring-your-dog-to-work movement within the agency; and

WHEREAS, Adrienne added a personal touch to the Bay Area's farm-to-table ethos by bringing beautiful flowers from her garden to grace many a workplace vase; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the commissioners and staff of MTC thank Adrienne for her years of service to the Commission, to the people of the Bay Area and to the legal profession; and wish her ample opportunities in the years to come for new adventures in travel near and far, lovely light for plein air painting, timely rainfall and superb soil conditions for championship-level gardening, and a future Facebook antitrust ruling that preserves a place for her followers to experience it all vicariously.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a duly called and noticed meeting held in San Francisco, California and at other remote locations, on December 16, 2020.