



ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Bay Area Metro Center
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May 2, 2025

Ms. Vina Maharaj,
Sharon McCreddie, Charlene Harrington, Angela Salsbury, Eileen Barr, Lilian Ademola, Dayle Farina, Marci Loss, Henry Gardner, Victoria Rutherford

Dear Ms. Maharaj et al.,

We have received your correspondence of April 17, 2025 regarding the Association of Bay Area Governments' retiree medical and pension benefits.

On behalf of the ABAG Executive Board, we want to assure you that ABAG has no intention of walking away from its obligations to the ABAG retirees. Staff's presentation of an option of terminating the CalPERS plan was with respect to ABAG's obligations to CalPERS – not of the plan's obligations to ABAG's retirees.

ABAG's plan with CalPERS is in the Miscellaneous Pool of the CalPERS cost sharing plan. This plan provides for an option to terminate the ABAG participation in the plan in exchange for a lump sum payment from ABAG to the CalPERS plan calculated at a "risk-free" discount rate. While staff believe that it is unlikely that this would be a preferred option for ABAG, it is an option that they have concluded should be shown to the agency in an effort to maintain full transparency.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please reach out to ABAG's Chief Financial Officer, Derek Hansel. He can be reached by email at dhansel@bayareametro.gov or by phone at (415) 778-6730.

Again, we appreciate the service that ABAG's retirees have provided to the agency and maintain our commitment to ensuring that the full obligations of the agency to its retirees will be met.

Sincerely,

Bella Ramos, President

Carlos Romero, Vice President

AB:Dh:lm

TO: ABAG Executive Board

FROM: Some ABAG Retirees

DATE: April 17, 2025

RE: **ABAG Retiree Medical and Pension Benefit**

Dear President Ramos & Honorable Members of the Executive Board:

The ABAG employees who retired from ABAG (ABAG Retirees) have recently become aware of the significant financial challenges ABAG is facing at present and will continue to face in the future. Since the merger of ABAG with MTC in 2017, ABAG has continued to meet its financial obligations especially as it relates to Retiree medical and pension benefits. We are extremely grateful and appreciative of ABAG's effort to provide its retirees with financial security and wellbeing during their retirement years.

MTC staff have provided some options as to how they plan to address this problem. While they have provided three good options, terminating the CalPERS plan is an absolutely terrible option. We are extremely hopeful that one of the first three options will work out so that we don't have to ever arrive at the fourth option.

With at least a dozen of our retirees having already passed on, the rest of us are continuing to go through life facing many daily challenges especially as it relates to our health and wellbeing. Therefore, we can't even imagine living without our medical and pension benefits. Recently, as you know, we have learned of threats to our Social Security benefits as well. Learning about ABAG's significant financial challenges has brought about a heightened level of anxiety among us. Losing our pension benefits will be catastrophic and disastrous to our wellbeing at this stage of our lives.

We applaud your efforts in trying to come up with solutions to solve this very dreadful problem. We hope you will find a resolution soon and inform us of the outcome.

Sincerely,
ABAG Retirees (Vina Maharaj, Sharon McCreadie, Charlene Harrington, Angela Salsbury, Eileen Barr, Lilian Ademola, Dayle Farina, Marci Loss, Henry Gardner, Victoria Rutherford)

*Note – While other retirees share this sentiment, they all weren't able to consent their individual signatures in time for today's Board meeting.

cc: Andrew Fremir, Executive Director