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April 25, 2017

Commissioner Jake McKenzie
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

Re: Comments about April 25, 2017 Commission Meeting Agenda Item 12a., Contract for Services between MTC and ABAG

Dear Commissioner McKenzie:

At ABAG's last Executive Board meeting, on April 20, 2017, SEIU and ABAG staff asked the Executive Board to add language to the contract conditioning ABAG's approval on requiring MTC to accept SEIU as the representative of approximately 60 incoming ABAG employees (1) during these negotiations and (2) AFTER they become MTC employees for future MOUs. **This language is shocking and unacceptable.**

I've worked as a Planner/Analyst in the Programming and Allocations Section at MTC for the past 10 years. Previously, I worked at AC Transit where I was a member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFSCME local 3916. I served on AFSCME's Executive Board as its secretary for four of the five years I was there. AFSCME had to approach AC Transit's employees in order to unionize its management staff: SEIU knows that this is standard union protocol and that it applies to ALL MTC employees.

SEIU must not be allowed to represent a subset of 60 MTC employees, particularly when those employees will work in the same jobs as those represented by the Committee for Staff Representation (CSR) in Planning, Finance, and Administrative positions. When one job classification has two employee representative units, the perception of unfair and unequal treatment will occur and real unequal treatment can occur. CSR is currently the representative of all of the approximately 250 employees at MTC and has been since MTC's inception in the 1970s. CSR has successfully bargained for changes in our Memorandum of Understanding for 40 years. While CSR is our representative now, this does not preclude MTC employees from joining a larger union as a group if we desire.

SEIU must approach the entire organization or the class of employees that they feel is underrepresented should be approached and lobbied for membership. At AC Transit, AFSCME represents office and management employees and the Amalgamated Transit Union represents drivers and mechanics. SEIU must not be allowed to enter MTC through last-minute contract language as an "ask". They should walk through the front door and allow ALL of the employees to decide if we want them to represent us. SEIU needs to play by the rules so that current MTC staff are not treated unfairly.

Sincerely,

Christina Hohorst
Programming and Allocations Section