



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA  
An Inter-League Organization of the San Francisco Bay Area



October 28, 2008

Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson, Chair  
Joint Policy Committee  
P.O. Box 2050  
Oakland CA 94604-2050

Re: Scope of Joint Policy Committee and Future Issues

Dear Supervisor Jacobs Gibson,

The passage of AB 2094 (DeSaulnier) to add the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) as a full voting member of the Joint Policy Committee (JPC) and the enactment of SB 375 (Steinberg), which sets forth a new collaborative regional process to meet the requirements of climate change, are exciting developments along the way toward the goal of integrated regional planning.

For more than forty years, the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area has urged that there be a regional agency that had the authority to develop integrated regional planning involving land use, air quality, transportation planning, and bay and water planning. While we ultimately want to have an agency with at least a portion of directly elected members, we have felt that the formation of the JPC was a good start toward that goal.

There has been a substantially improved, and more unified, planning program for the San Francisco Bay region since the JPC was formed more than four years ago. Progress has been made simply by having regional agency representatives meeting together and coordinating efforts—both at the commissioner level and at the staff level.

By the early addition of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and then the informal addition of commissioners from the BCDC, major regional issues have been vetted through the JPC process. We would point to the integration of transit oriented development issues into the MTC transportation plans; to the FOCUS priority development area planning; to the concern about air quality issues related to land uses; and to regional climate change issues.

There have been concerns expressed about the size of the JPC in terms of its ability to deliberate effectively within the time limits at meetings and the intervals between meetings, including the need for all members to make comments; also problems in attaining a quorum, etc. With its current size and brief meeting time frame, these constraints affect which issues can be considered. With the formal addition of BCDC now is the time for a re-evaluation of the committee structure and general process, as was suggested at your March 2007 meeting. The implementation of AB 32 and SB 375 are critical to the future of the Bay Area and the State.

The implementation of AB 32 and now SB 375 are critical. The JPC should be constructed to address effectively the important regional planning issues affecting the Bay Area.

Congratulations on your efforts to date toward effective regional planning. We urge that you act to make your meetings more efficient retaining due deliberation.

Sincerely,

Marion Taylor  
Vice President, Program/Advocacy