

MEGAREGION WORKING GROUP



April 22, 2024

**MTC
REPRESENTATIVES**

Carol Dutra-Vernaci
Mayor, Union City

Federal D. Glover
Supervisor, Contra Costa County

Nate Miley, Vice Chair
Supervisor, Alameda County

Jim Spering
Representing Solano
County and Cities

**SJCOG
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gary Singh, Chair
Mayor, City of Manteca

Robert Rickman
Supervisor, San Joaquin County

Nancy Young
Mayor, City of Tracy

Leo Zuber
Vice Mayor, City of Ripon

**SACOG
REPRESENTATIVES**

Gary Bradford
Supervisor, Yuba County

Alice Dowdin-Calvillo
Councilmember, City of Auburn

Paul Joiner
Mayor, City of Lincoln

Mike Kozlowski
Councilmember, City of Folsom

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Senate President Pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
1020 N Street, Suite 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Restore Budget Funding for Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021 (REAP 2.0)

Dear President pro Tempore McGuire, Speaker Rivas, Chair Wiener, and Chair Gabriel:

The Megaregion Working Group respectfully urges the Legislature to reject the \$300 million cut to the Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021 (REAP 2.0) included in Governor Newsom's 2024-25 January Budget proposal. The \$300 million rescission eliminates half of a \$600 million investment to advance the implementation of adopted regional plans by funding planning and infrastructure investments that accelerate infill housing and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

The Megaregion Working Group is a partnership of twelve Northern California elected officials, including four representatives each from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in the Bay Area, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), and the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG). The Megaregion, which includes 16 counties and 136 cities, has a total population of nearly 11 million people and stretches from the Bay Area and Central Valley to the Sierra Nevada Foothills. The Working Group's mission is to tackle shared transportation and housing challenges and better connect the people and economies of the Megaregion.

REAP 2.0 is vital to California's strategic investments toward a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive future. REAP 2.0 will accelerate progress toward our state housing goals and climate commitments through a strengthened partnership between the state, its regions, and local entities.

This unprecedented retraction in fully committed funding for REAP 2.0, SACOG's Green Means Go, and MTC's Plan Bay Area's Growth Framework implementation, will result in cancellations or delays in critical infill housing infrastructure that is well underway. Please protect funding for REAP 2.0 by rejecting the Governor's January proposal.

Thank you for considering our comments. We look forward to working with you to ensure critical infill housing development can progress in your district. Please contact Ryan Niblock, SJCOG staff, at niblock@sjcog.org or at 209.235.0588 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Andrew B. Fremier
Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission

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Diane Nguyen
Executive Director
San Joaquin Council of Governments

DocuSigned by:

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James Corless
Executive Director
Sacramento Area Council of Governments

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Timothy Griffiths, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Genevieve Morelos, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Teresa Calvert, Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance