



# SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

Ken Kirkey, Director of Planning  
ABAG  
P. O. Box 2050  
Oakland, CA 94604-2050

March 8, 2012

**Re: Applications by San Mateo County for Priority Development Area status for the Midcoast area and by Sonoma County for the Graton, Forestville, Guerneville, and Penngrove areas**

Dear Mr. Kirkey,

On behalf of the Redwood Chapter, San Francisco Bay Chapter and Loma Prieta Chapters of the Sierra Club we have a strong interest in MTC & ABAG's ongoing efforts to reduce vehicle miles traveled in the Bay Area and to encourage growth patterns that support that objective.

We support the idea that "Priority Development Areas" (PDAs) with higher density housing and higher employment opportunities should be identified along major transportation corridors served by public transit. However, the use of such designations to address the needs of unincorporated, low population areas not located on major corridors nor served by significant public transit appears to undermine the idea. Should such areas have specific focused needs that have the support of local shareholders then such needs can be addressed without the PDA designation being deployed.

The Sierra Club is also committed to the public process and we are disappointed at the dearth of outreach to the affected communities in both counties preceding these applications.

We ask that the applications referenced above not be forwarded for approval and that San Mateo County and Sonoma County be offered a more appropriate avenue of funding for needed projects.

Cordially,

Jay Halcomb

Redwood Chapter  
Chair

Arthur Feinstein

San Francisco Bay Chapter  
Chair

Ginny Laibl

Loma Prieta Chapter  
Chair