

May 10, 2005

Ralph Rubio
Chair
AMBAG
PO Box 809
Marina CA 93933-0809

RE: Draft FY05-06 Overall Work Program – Work Element 621: Elderly and Disabled and ADA

Dear Chair Rubio:

As Chair of the SCCRTC, I am writing to ask the AMBAG Board to postpone consideration of proposed new tasks to be conducted by AMBAG for FY05-06 in Work Element 621: Elderly and Disabled and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transportation. This is part of the proposed FY 05-06 Overall Work Program (OWP) for your May 11, 2005 Board meeting.

Our Commission and the Santa Cruz Metro Transit District each year spend a great deal of energy and time on coordination of elderly and disabled transportation issues including ADA and non-ADA paratransit services in our county. This work includes addressing coordination of services to adjacent counties. Each of our organizations has an on-going committee focusing on these issues. Furthermore, for this fiscal year and next fiscal year our county is conducting more in-depth work on paratransit coordination issues.

I do not support the creation of an AMBAG Elderly and Disabled Transportation Committee or another conference or a new assessment of services by AMBAG. In these times of smaller budgets and increasing responsibilities it seems unwise to perform work that will largely duplicate the work being performed by existing groups in both Santa Cruz and Monterey counties.

The SCCRTC Executive Director Pat Dellin has communicated this position and her concerns to you and your staff over the past several weeks. We know that SCMTD and Transportation Agency for Monterey County staff have also expressed concerns. We were surprised to see that none of these concerns was included in your staff report on the OWP.

As the SCCRTC Executive Director has proposed to you and your staff, I support a staff level meeting of the SCCTC, the Transportation Agency for Monterey

County, AMBAG and the two county transit districts to discuss if any new two-

county tasks would be warranted in the elderly and disabled field next fiscal year. I ask that you postpone approval of the AMBAG staff proposal for this Work Element until staff has had that meeting.

If the AMBAG Board instead decides to approve any new AMBAG tasks in this work element, the SCCRTC will need to consider whether the SCCRTC will participate.

Thank you very much for consideration of our comments and our proposal.

Sincerely,

Ellen Pirie
Chair
SCCRTC

Cc: SCCRTC
Nick Papadakis, AMBAG Executive Director
Jan Beautz, SCCRTC Board
Tony Campos, SCCRTC Board
Mike Keogh, SCCRTC Board
Emily Reilly, SCCRTC Board
Stephanie Aguilar, City of Scotts Valley
Ramon Gomez, City of Watsonville
Stephanie Harlan, City of Capitola
Pat Dellin, Acting Executive Director, SCCRTC
Leslie R. White, Santa Cruz METRO General Manager
Bill Reichmuth, Transportation Agency for Monterey County