

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Appointments to Mega Region Working Group

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to Approve Chair Appointments

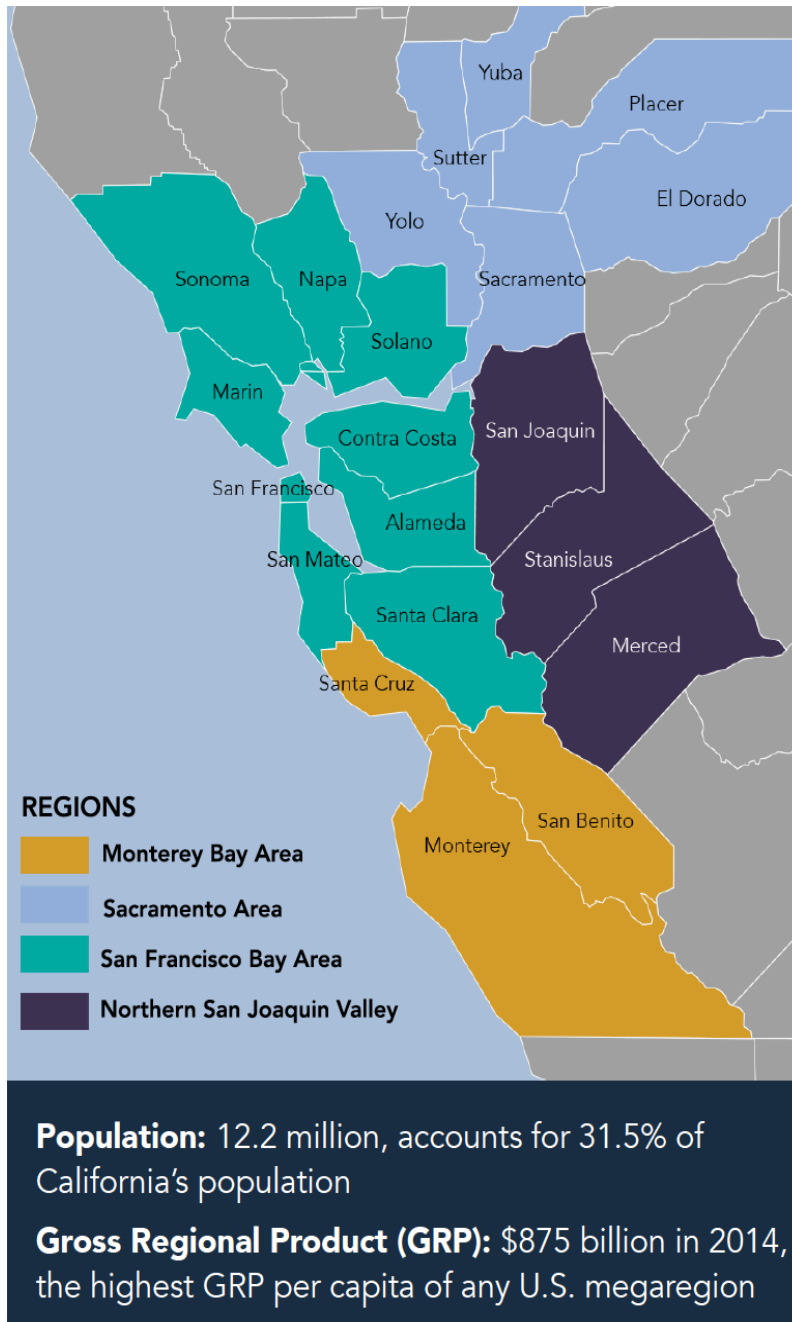
DISCUSSION:

In 2015, San Joaquin COG, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) (our counterpart in the nine-county Bay Area) and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) (our counterpart in the six-county Sacramento region) formed a working group to investigate avenues of cooperation between our three agencies over the Northern California Megaregion. Four members were appointed with two alternates.

The effort started out focusing on three key interregional issues: Passenger Rail Service; Goods Movement; and Jobs-Housing Imbalances. The effort was an initial success in that it brought together locally-elected officials to talk about issues that spanned the efforts of the three regional agencies. Over time though, the effort lagged in the face of higher priorities in the Bay Area primarily, but also in the SACOG region, which pulled staff and consulting resources to other efforts.

In December, representatives from the three agencies met again to discuss how to jump start the effort. It was agreed that new appointments should be made and that the working group should meet three to four times a year with a standard, set meeting date and time. The three previous policy efforts should be kept going along with economic development policy initiatives spanning the three agency megaregion. It was agreed to start with our three agencies but to consider in the future the Monterey Bay Area, Stanislaus and Merced and possibly even the Reno region. SACOG agreed to host an event around the Northern California Megaregion in the summer at UC Davis.

Chair Kuehne will have a slate of candidates for the Board to choose from at the January meeting. The Executive Committee will make recommendations based on the Chair's suggestions, but at the time of the writing of this staff report, the Executive Committee had not met.



The first meeting of the new Megaregion Working Group will be at noon in Tracy on Friday, February 21, 2020.