

CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

SUGGESTED CHANGES

(These are offered as suggestions for consideration and food for thought as updates to the current status. They are based on experiences with the COC gained after 17 years of operation, and knowledge of the operations.)

OVERVIEW

RESPONSIBILITIES current per Investment Plan

--General

COC "may receive, review, and recommend action or revision to plans, programs, audits, or projects".

--Specifics

- Receive, review, inspect, recommend action and comment on
 - independent financial audits and performance audits
 - other periodic reports, studies and plans from responsible agencies
 - Measure expenditures to ensure consistency with Investment Plan
 - annually review and publicize how sales tax receipts are being spent
- In a formal annual report, present recommendations, findings and requests

INDEPENDENCE required

--Promoted as "Independent"

- Mailers for 2022 ballot measure said "Independent"
- California Codes specify "Independent" oversight committee

CHANGES

MEMBER SELECTION

Members are currently selected exclusively by the Transportation Authority with no input from, or discussion with any Oversight Committee.

Need to empower Committee to **self-select members** by the remaining members.

MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

Current	Proposed
US Citizen over 18 and resident	--Same. No change
Not an elected official	-- Never an elected official
Not a public employee	-- Never a public employee

BUDGET

COC must have their **own budget**. In order to be independent not be subject to preferences of Transportation Authority members, the organization that they audit.

AUDITS

Currently, the Transportation Authority, who is the subject of the audits, initiates, writes contract, receives, and otherwise controls the financial audit.

The COC must **be in control of all audits, annual and otherwise.**

MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS

No qualifications are currently specified.

"Qualifications" should be added and include things like:

- critical thinker
- possess some level of technical or business skills

MEETING SCHEDULE

The COC must be empowered in practice to set their own meeting schedule, and agenda, and not simply on paper as set in the Investment Plan

TERM OF CHAIRMANSHIP

Per Appendix C of the Investment Plan, the term is currently 1 year. That should be 2 -4 years. One year with only 1 meeting as specified in Appendix C is barely enough time to become acclimated to role and responsibilities of the position. In the past, they met only 2 times per year which isn't enough time to do anything.

PERFORMANCE AUDITS

Specific and random audits of construction projects should be conducted for compliance with objectives, priorities, efficiency, selection criteria, commitments to voters. None have been done in 17 years of Measure T even though they are listed in the responsibilities.

OVERALL

CHARTER/BYLAWS NEEDED

--. Currently there are only 2 pages in Appendix C of Investment Plan. Other counties, such as Marin, have 9 pages in their bylaws.

-- The Charter should build on that (subject to suggested changes above) including

- Authorities and limitations
- Membership composition
- Alternates
- Terms
- Subcommittees
- Chairperson/Vice Chair/Officers
- Calling Regular and Special meetings
- Attendance Requirements
- Ground Rules/Conduct/Robert's Rules
- Agenda Preparation and Format