

TA

CORRESPONDENCE

as of 3-6-2020



March 2, 2020

Honorable Emily Beach
Chair, San Mateo County Transportation Authority
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070

Dear Chair Beach,

I have the privilege of serving as the President of the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) Board of Directors. Like San Mateo County, San Bernardino is a Self-Help County that shares the unique and important distinction of having been entrusted by the voters to manage the precious transportation resources derived from a self-imposed sales tax. Much as you and SMCTA do, SBCTA takes this fiduciary responsibility seriously and believes that those resources should never become a funding source for the state to fulfil its own priorities. Unfortunately, that is exactly what has been proposed for San Bernardino County by two pieces of legislation introduced this session.

Assembly Bill (AB) 2011 by Assembly Member Holden and Senate Bill (SB) 1390 by Senator Portantino both propose to take control of the planning and funding process for rail access to Ontario International Airport. Both members share a similar district makeup largely in Los Angeles County with a very small portion of San Bernardino County. The proposed construction authority created by these pieces of legislation would essentially replicate SBCTA's function as the established agency for planning and delivery of transportation projects in the county. Neither bill provides funding (outside of San Bernardino County) and SB 1390 identifies our local tax measure proceeds as a source of funding for this project that primarily benefits Los Angeles County residents. In fact, the cities in San Bernardino County represented by the authors have all opposed this concept.

While rail access to the airport is an important goal that SBCTA has contemplated for more than six years, we have done so in a deliberative and methodical manner that is respectful of San Bernardino County voters who will likely be called upon to fund the project through an additional sales tax measure. AB 2011 and SB 1390 would bypass our agency's ability to plan and deliver the appropriate projects for our region and would instead allow the State to dictate that local San Bernardino County taxpayers must fund an expanded bureaucracy to build a multi-billion transportation project that has not been approved by the SBCTA Board or by the voters of San Bernardino County.

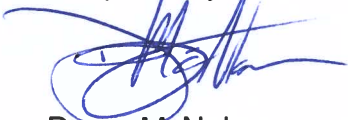
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The establishment of another agency to develop and deliver transportation projects in our county is duplicative, divisive, and unnecessary. As a Self-Help County, I hope you share my concern that this type of legislation could lead to the creation of more construction authorities that are not supported by the locally established transportation agency. I'm asking for your agency to oppose both AB 2011 and SB 1390 and send a clear message that managing our respective community's transportation priorities and resources cannot be seized by the State.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact SBCTA's Executive Director Dr. Raymond Wolfe (rwolfe@gosbcta.com) or Otis Greer (ogreer@gosbcta.com), Director of Legislative and Public Affairs at 909.884.8276.

Respectfully,



Darcy McNaboe
President, San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
Mayor, City of Grand Terrace