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August 18, 2023

Dr. Jeffrey L. Payne, Director NOAA Office for Coastal Management 2234 South Hobson Ave Charleston, SC 29405-2413

#### RE: San Mateo County's Submission to NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge

Dear Director Payne:

I am writing in support of San Mateo County's Climate Resilience Regional Challenge Grant Application submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the San Mateo County Coastal Resilient Infrastructure Strategic Plan (CRISP) Project.

The San Mateo County coast is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change including sea level rise, extreme storms, and wildfires, and it regularly experiences widespread erosion and flooding that has resulted in local, state, and federal disaster declarations and the loss of life, property, and access. Because of its geography, the San Mateo County south coast is often cut off from emergency response and critical services.

The San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) provides bus and paratransit service along the coast that connects people with jobs, food, and essential services. The San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) plans, funds, and delivers transportation programs and projects on the coast. Our bus routes and investments in infrastructure and safety improvements are vulnerable to landslides, large trees and power wires falling, and flooding in low-lying areas that cross creeks and coastal wetlands.

Building on recent vulnerability assessments conducted by the County of San Mateo and research universities, and hazard mitigation plans of the County and other local municipalities, the County and its partners seek to respond to these threats by developing a comprehensive Coastal Resilient Infrastructure Strategic Plan (CRISP). Through CRISP, the partners would regionally and collectively evaluate built and natural infrastructure and map areas that must be prioritized to build enduring coastal resiliency.

This planning grant proposal aims to build a strong, inclusive, and equitable coalition of community and public agencies. CRISP would analyze and evaluate Coastal infrastructure and identify areas that should be targeted to strengthen Coastal Resiliency. The results will support efforts with businesses, utility providers, and local, regional, state, and federal agencies to prioritize identified needs. They would also allow emergency management agencies to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to climate-related disasters, safeguard, and secure critical Dr. Jeffrey L. Payne, Director August 18, 2023 Page **2** of **2** 

lifeline infrastructure, coordinate multi-agency efforts, engage the community, and achieve long-term risk reduction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project. I fully support the County in the efforts and look forward to the implementation of this project and the benefits it will bring to our community.

Sincetely, April Chan

General Manager/CEO and Executive Director

Cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors

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То:	Board (@smcta.com)
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