



TA Board of Directors
Meeting of April 3, 2025

Correspondence as of March 28, 2025

Subject

1. Legislative Support Letter Regarding SB 71

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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March 6, 2025

The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 71 (Wiener) CEQA Streamlining for Clean Transportation Projects

Dear Chair Blakespear,

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA), I am pleased to inform you that both agencies are **supporting SB 71 (Wiener)**. SB 71 would make clarifying changes to, and modify slightly, the existing statutory exemptions to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for clean transportation projects, established by SB 288 (Wiener) [Chapter 200, Statutes of 2020], while also removing the law's January 1, 2030 sunset date.

In 2020, SB 288 (Wiener) was signed into law, establishing a set of statutory exemptions from CEQA in the Public Resources Code for certain clean transportation projects, with the goal of accelerating clean transportation projects that reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Since the passage of SB 288 in 2020, over 90 projects statewide have moved forward more quickly and cost effectively, including transit priority projects, bicycle & pedestrian projects, bus rapid transit projects, traffic calming projects, zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure, ADA curb and sidewalk repairs, and transit maintenance facility modernization. SMCTA may use the exemptions established for two upcoming projects, the El Camino Real Complete Streets projects and Fashion Island Blvd/19th Ave Complete Streets Project in the City of San Mateo.

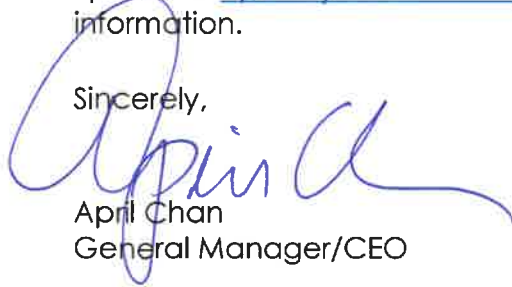
Along with conversion of our fleet to zero emission technology, SamTrans has many projects that may benefit from this bill. The agency fully implemented the changes from the last transit operational analysis and plan. SamTrans is in the process of implementing a bus stop study and changing shelters and amenities across the county.

As such, we believe the state should make the exemptions permanent, creating long-term certainty for local agencies as they continue to advance projects that further clean

transportation options and make public transit more equitable and accessible.

For these reasons, we strongly support SB 71. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact Government and Community Affairs Director Jessica Epstein at epsteinj@samtrans.com if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "April Chan", is written over the typed name and title.

April Chan
General Manager/CEO

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