

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council
Regular Meeting of September 13, 2016

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: MEASURE 'M'

Measure 'M' Background

Measure 'M' is Metro's proposed countywide transportation sales tax measure which is planned for the November 8, 2016 ballot. The new half-cent sales tax increase has been proposed to solve mobility issues facing the County by expanding the county's rail network through the San Fernando Valley, the San Gabriel Valley and the Sepulveda Pass. The measure would also finance additional new transportation projects and programs, and accelerate many of those already in the pipeline. Approved by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's board of directors in June of this year, the Measure would generate an estimated \$860 million per year. The half-cent tax would double to one cent in 2039 to replace the revenue lost when Measure R, another half-cent sales tax, expires, and would then continue indefinitely.

Analysis

Metro identifies five new major projects that provide value to the South Bay as part of its new plan: Green line extension from Redondo Beach to Crenshaw Blvd. in Torrance; I-405/I-110 Interchange HOV Connect Ramps and Interchange Improvements; I-105 Express Lane from I-405 to I-605; I-110 Express Lane Extension South to I-405/I-110 Interchange; I-405 South Bay Curve Improvements. (For a full list of multiplatform transportation projects across LA County, refer to the attached Metro Measure M Information Guide.)

On July 1, 2016, the South Bay Council of Governments voted to oppose the sales tax measure for reasons that the regional share of the sales tax was insufficient and that South Bay transportation projects will not receive enough attention (for Local Return Allocations by Subregion, refer to the attached document). Over the course of the past several months, the South Bay Cities Council of Governments and its member cities have reviewed and responded to Metro's proposal – submitting proposed revisions during the public review period and challenging components of the measure entirely. The attached materials provide a timeline and background on the SBCCOG's efforts regarding Metro's ballot measure. Major concerns expressed by the SBCCOG are detailed in the attached letter from 7.1.16.

- 1) **5.11.16 SBCCOG Response Letter** (The COG's formal response to Metro's request for comments prior to the plan being officially adopted at Metro's June board meeting).
- 2) **7.1.16 SBCCOG Letter of Opposition** (Following Metro's Board approval of the final measure for the ballot. This letter states the SBCCOG Board's decision to oppose and the reasons why).

- 3) **8.26.16 SBCCOG Follow-up Letter** (A response following Mayor Garcetti and Metro Chair John Fasana's visit to the SBCCOG's August Board of Director's meeting).
- 4) **9.2.16 Eric Garcetti Letter to SBCCOG** (Mayor Garcetti's response to the SBCCOG's comments and 8.26.16 letter).

In response to Metro's board approval of this measure, a few South Bay cities have responded by joining in a lawsuit against Metro regarding Measure M (Carson, Torrance, and Rancho Palos Verdes). Although the SBCCOG Board has stated its opposition to this Measure, the SBCCOG is not participating (monetarily or otherwise) in the lawsuit(s) or individual opposition efforts currently underway. As an additional resource, the Gateway COG has launched an educational campaign for their member cities, commissioning a poll to determine support of the Measure. Further information on these efforts and poll results can be found on their website here:

<http://www.gatewaycog.org/gateway/initiatives-and-projects/measure-m/?cat=Measure+M>).