



November 3, 2020

Ms. Mary D. Nichols
Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Hilary Norton
Chair
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Gustavo Velasquez
Director
California Department of Housing and Community Development
2020 West El Camino Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95833

Public Comment: Climate Action Plan on Transportation Infrastructure

Dear Ms. Nichols, Ms. Norton and Mr. Velasquez:

The Central Coast Coalition would like to thank the California State Transportation Agency for the opportunity to provide input on the development of the Draft Transportation Action Plan and Draft Investment Strategies related to Executive Orders N-19-19 and N-79-20. The Coalition consists of the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies and Metropolitan Planning Organizations in San Benito, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara counties and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments.

As we have stated, we look forward to partnering with the State on meeting the Governor's Executive Orders on Climate Change. Many of our agencies have participated in the public outreach opportunities, but we would like to provide additional input on the development process for the draft Transportation Action Plan and Investment Strategies.

Our input is as follows:

1. Central Coast Regions Provide Multimodal Options, Need Geographic Sensitive Strategies:

The Central Coast is taking an equitable, sustainable and multimodal approach to improving the transportation network to improve mobility and accessibility and to ensure economic vitality up and down the coast. These balanced multimodal projects and improvements are derived from Regional Transportation Plans and Sustainable Communities Strategies that meet Statewide Climate Change goals while also addressing



the local needs of our communities. Extensive public outreach is undertaken to ensure the public has input in the planning process as part of our RTPs.

One of the strategies identified in the draft investment strategies is to 'promote projects that do not increase passenger vehicle travel.' We request that the State take a geographic sensitive approach to this strategy as there are small urban/rural areas that still need to plan, fund and deliver projects that may increase passenger vehicle travel to address safety and freight movement. It is critical for the state to consider areas where capacity expansion is necessary to address climate adaptation and resiliency to provide expanded capacity on evacuation routes or parallel routes in case of natural disasters or other climate events. An example includes the closure of U.S. 101 in Santa Barbara County as a result of the Thomas Fire and Montecito debris flow event. We request that this strategy receive further attention to address this geographic sensitive approach.

2. Request for an Additional Workshop Prior to Release of the Draft Plan

We appreciate the outreach that CalSTA has conducted thus far to the diverse and broad stakeholder groups in California. Many of our agency staff participated in the October 20 Virtual workshop conducted by CalSTA. We would like to request that CalSTA conduct an additional workshop prior to the release of the Draft Action Plan in early 2021.

We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with the California State Transportation Agency on our efforts and engage Agency and the State in a thoughtful and productive discussion. We look forward to partnering with the State with meeting the Executive Order and providing additional input on the development of the Transportation Action Plan.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarkes Khachek, SBCAG Director of Programming, at 209.402.4445 or skhachek@sbcag.org.

Sincerely,

Marjie Kirn, Executive Director
Santa Barbara County Association of
Governments

Pete Rodgers, Executive Director
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments

Debra L. Hale, Executive Director
Transportation Agency for Monterey County

Guy Preston, Executive Director
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation
Commission



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mary Gilbert'.

Mary Gilbert, Executive Director
San Benito Council of Governments

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Maura Twomey'.

Maura Twomey, Executive Director
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

cc:

- David Kim, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
- Elissa Konove, Undersecretary, California State Transportation Agency
- Darwin Moosavi, Deputy Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
- Mitch Weiss, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission
- Tanisha Taylor, Chief Deputy Director, California Transportation Commission
- Laura Pennebaker, Acting Deputy Director, California Transportation Commission
- Toks Omishakin, Director, Caltrans
- Jeanie Ward Waller, Deputy Director for Planning and Modal Programs, Caltrans
- Tim Gubbins, District Director, Caltrans District 5
- Scott Eades, Deputy District Director, Planning and Local Assistance, Caltrans District 5