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Ms. Bimla Rhinehart
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814

COMMENTS ON CTC 2010 WORKING DRAFT CALIFORNIA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN GUIDELINES

Dear Ms. Rhinehart:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), I want to thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) 2010 Working Draft California Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines (dated October 26, 2009). The CTC staff and the subcommittee coordinators have done an outstanding job of shepherding the process and responding to the input of a large group of participating parties. Our comments focus specifically to the language on page 93 of the draft regarding exemptions from the SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy Requirements.

We ask that CTC staff use language as close to the original statute as possible. We believe the words "programmed for funding through construction" go beyond the intent and language of the statute. Such language would prevent many projects funded with local measure funds for elements other than construction from being covered by the exemptions that we believe are provided under the law. We would propose the following language regarding exemptions instead of what is currently on page 93:

> *Exemption of projects from Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) or Alternative Planning Strategy (APS)*
>
> *Nothing in this section requires a transportation sales tax authority to change the funding allocations approved by the voters for categories of transportation projects in a sales tax measure adopted prior to December 31, 2010.*

Government Code Section 65080 (b) (2) (K) exempts projects from the SCS and APS requirements that are programmed for funding on or before December 31, 2011 if they are:

1. Projects included in the 2007 or 2009 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program;

2. Projects funded pursuant to the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006 (projects funded from Proposition 1B); or

3. Projects specifically listed in a ballot measure prior to December 31, 2008 approving a sales tax increase for transportation projects.

This exemption does not prevent MPOs from including projects from the exempted classes of projects in their SCS or APS. A project from one of the exempted classes of projects continues to be exempted regardless of its inclusion or exclusion from the SCS or APS."

Thank you again for your consideration of our comments. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact David Yale at (213) 922-2469 or Patricia Chen at (213) 922-3041.

Sincerely,

FRANK FLORES
Executive Officer
Regional Capital Development

cc: Susan Bransen, CTC