



March 13, 2017

Assembly Member Anna Caballero
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0030

Via email to: Peter.Ansel@asm.ca.gov

Re: Support for AB 696 (Caballero): Department of Transportation: Prunedale Bypass: County of Monterey: disposition of excess properties

Dear Assembly Member Caballero:

On behalf of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), I write in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 696: Department of Transportation: Prunedale Bypass: County of Monterey: disposition of excess properties (as introduced, February 15, 2017). This bill will transfer the proceeds of the sale of the former Prunedale Bypass right-of-way parcels of land to the TAMC for use on priority transportation projects in the US 101 corridor in Monterey County. **TAMC supports this bill.**

Over many years, TAMC, the County of Monterey, and Caltrans assembled the transportation funds to buy approximately 350 acres of land for the US 101 Prunedale Bypass project. The project was unable to be constructed, and TAMC and Caltrans instead constructed safety improvements on US 101, known as the Prunedale Improvement Project. Existing priority projects in the US 101 corridor in Monterey County face significant funding shortfalls. If the right-of-way parcels are unused, then Caltrans has authority to sell the land, and under current law can take the revenues from the sale of bypass land and direct it to the state general fund – not back to transportation and not back to Monterey County for filling in budget gaps to further programmed projects in the existing State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or the voter-approved Transportation Investment Plan (Measure X).

AB 696 would require the revenues from the sale of the Prunedale Bypass parcels to come back to TAMC, to be used for already programmed STIP or Measure X projects in the US 101 corridor in Monterey County. AB 696 would ensure that millions of transportation dollars would come back to the local highway system for improvements that would benefit Monterey County's regional economic drivers: agriculture and tourism.

Thank you very much for your authorship of this important bill and for supporting efforts to improve transportation in California.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Hale
Executive Director

cc: Hon. Anthony Cannella, 12th Senate District
Hon. Bill Monning, 17th Senate District
Hon. Mark Stone, 29th Assembly District