



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

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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 Assembly Bill 696 (Caballero): Department of Transportation: Prunedale Bypass: County of Monterey: disposition of excess properties.

Dear Assembly Member Caballero:

On behalf of the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA), I write in support of AB 696: Department of Transportation: Prunedale Bypass: County of Monterey: disposition of excess properties (as introduced, February 15, 2017). The AB 696 bill provides for the transfer of former Prunedale Bypass right-of-way land sale proceeds to the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) for priority Monterey County US 101 corridor transportation projects. FORA contributes funding to the regional transportation programs that both; 1) mitigate FORA obligations under California law, and 2) help to assure effective vehicular and other access modes to support our regional recovery programs. Since this legislation affords transfer of resources for and moves ahead key projects for our region **FORA supports this bill** - as it has supported similar efforts in the past.

Existing TAMC priority Monterey County US 101 corridor projects face significant funding shortfalls; delaying implementation. AB 696 would enable land sale proceeds to be provided to TAMC, for already programmed State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or voter-approved US 101 corridor County of Monterey Measure X projects. In particular, the Highway 156/ US 101 interchange project is a regional top priority to relieve bottleneck congestion on a significant commuter, supply, and visitor access route to the Monterey Peninsula. Also, the US 101 Safety Improvements project would build frontage roads and related safety improvements to US 101 in South Salinas and South Monterey County, a vital goods movement corridor through the "Salad Bowl" of the nation. AB 696 would ensure that crucial transportation dollars would be applied to the local highway improvement system to benefit Monterey regional economic drivers: agriculture and tourism. Such improvements also support the regional recovery from Fort Ord closure.

We at FORA thank you for your authorship of this important bill while supporting efforts to improve transportation in Central California and throughout the state.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Houlemard, Jr.
Executive Officer

cc: Debra L. Hale, TAMC