



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)
Disposition of excess Caltrans properties**

Dear Assembly Member Caballero:

Monterey County Farm Bureau represents family farmers and ranchers in the interest of protecting and promoting agriculture throughout our County. We strive to improve the ability of those engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of our local resources.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Monterey County Farm Bureau, this letter expresses our 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 Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) for use on priority transportation projects in the U.S. 101 corridor in Monterey County.

Existing priority projects in the U.S. 101 corridor in Monterey County face significant funding shortfalls. AB 696 would require the revenues from the sale of the Prunedale Bypass parcels to come back to the Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC), to be used for already programmed State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or voter-approved Measure X projects in the U.S. 101 corridor in Monterey County. The Highway 156/U.S. 101 interchange project is a regional top priority as a



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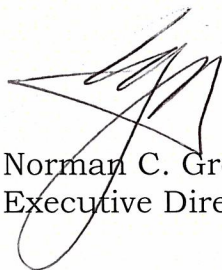
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bottleneck for traffic to the Monterey Peninsula, a heavily used corridor for tourists and trucks alike.

The U.S. 101 Safety Improvements project would build frontage roads and make related safety improvements to US 101 in South Salinas and South Monterey County, a vital goods movement corridor through the "Salad Bowl of the World." 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,



Norman C. Groot
Executive Director

cc: Debra L. Hale, TAMC

