



March 27, 2017

The Honorable Scott Wiener
11th Senate District
State Capitol, Room 4066
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email to: Taylor.Glass@sen.ca.gov

Re: Support for SCA 6 (Wiener): Local transportation measures: special taxes: voter approval

Dear Senator Wiener:

On behalf of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), I am writing in support of Senate Constitutional Amendment (SCA) 6, Local transportation measures: special taxes: voter approval (as introduced, February 13, 2017). This measure would require that the imposition, extension, or increase of a special tax by a local government for the purpose of providing funding for transportation purposes be submitted to the electorate and approved by 55% of the voters voting on the proposition. **TAMC supports SCA 6.**

SCA 6 would set the voter approval threshold for transportation funding measures at 55%, down from the current threshold of 2/3, or 66.6%, which is a supermajority of the voters and a very difficult threshold to reach. SCA 6 would put transportation funding measures on the same level as school funding measures, which were set at 55% by California voters in the year 2000. Under SCA 6, to qualify for the 55% threshold, a funding measure has to be fully dedicated to transportation-related projects and programs.

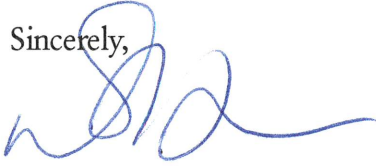
The mission of TAMC is to develop and maintain a multimodal transportation system that enhances mobility, safety, access, environment quality and economic activities in Monterey County. TAMC finally succeeded in becoming a "Self-Help County" in November 2016 when its Measure X passed with 67.1% of the vote. Previous attempts fell short of the supermajority threshold, but all would have passed with a simple majority, and two prior attempts would have succeeded at the 55% threshold:

1992	50%
1998	53%
2006	57.1%
2008	62.55%
2016	67.71%

Self-help counties have the distinct advantage of being able to attract – or, in the lingo of the Self-Help Counties Coalition, “leverage” – state and federal dollars with their local sales tax match. While Monterey County finally succeeded in this effort, in solidarity with other aspiring Self-Help Counties such as neighboring San Benito County, TAMC supports this measure.

Thank you for your authorship of this bill and for supporting efforts to improve transportation in California. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christina Watson of my staff at (831) 775-4406 or christina@tamcmonterey.org, or our Sacramento legislative analyst, John Arriaga, at (916) 669-1340 or jea@jeaandassociates.com.

Sincerely,



Debra L. Hale
Executive Director

cc: Hon. Anthony Cannella, 12th Senate District
Hon. Bill Monning, 17th Senate District
Hon. Anna Caballero, 30th Assembly District
Hon. Mark Stone, 29th Assembly District
Mary Gilbert, Council of San Benito County Governments