

**STAFF REPORT**  
**COUNCIL MEETING DATE:**  
**November 28, 2011**

**ITEM FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:**

Letter of Support related to the Santa Barbara County Association of Government's request to the California Transportation Commission for \$7.5 million in funding for commuter rail start-up costs.

City Manager



Dave Durlinger

Public Works



Charlie Ebeling

ACTION ITEM X ; NON-ACTION ITEM \_\_\_

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Approve for the Mayor's signature a letter supporting the Santa Barbara County Association of Government's request for \$7.5 in bond funding for commuter rail start-up costs.

**MOTION:** I move to approve sending the subject letter of support to the California Transportation Commission.

**I. BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

Recently the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) Board of Directors (Councilmember Armendariz representing the City of Carpinteria) authorized making a formal request to the California Transportation Commission for \$7.5 million in State Proposition 1B bond funds for commuter rail start-up costs. Mayor Clark and Council member Reddington have requested that the City Council consider sending a letter to the California Transportation Commission in support of the SBCAG request.

The SBCAG commuter rail project is a part of 101 in Motion, the regional plan to reduce congestion through multi-modal projects and programs and is also partially funded by the Measure A program. The commuter rail service is proposed to operate on the existing Union Pacific Railroad line between Ventura and Santa Barbara. Through discussions with Union Pacific Railroad, SBCAG

has identified a number of improvements it believes are necessary in order to gain the railroad's agreement to operate the service on its tracks. It has estimated the cost of those improvements at \$7.5 million. The improvements include rail replacement, track rehabilitation, construction of a new north Goleta platform, Santa Barbara station improvements and purchase of locomotives/rail cars.

**II. ATTACHMENTS:**

Draft Letter of Support

# CITY of CARPINTERIA CALIFORNIA

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November 29, 2011

**Members of the City Council**

California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Al Clark - Mayor*  
*J. Bradley Stein - Vice Mayor*  
*Joe Armendariz*  
*Gregg Carty*  
*Kathleen Reddington*

Dear Commission Members:

Re: SBCAG Commuter Rail Funding Request

The City of Carpinteria supports the Santa Barbara County Association of Government's (SBCAG) request for \$7.5 million in Proposition 1B, or, as an alternative, new STIP inter-regional rail funding needed for capital improvements to start commuter rail service between Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Commuter rail service is a key component to the implementation of "101 in Motion", a multi-modal plan adopted by SBCAG to provide a long-term solution to Highway 101 congestion in the region. The 30-year extension of Santa Barbara County's transportation sales tax (Measure A), approved by voters in 2008, allocates \$25 million for commuter and passenger rail service to provide an alternative to driving in the Highway 101 corridor.

Current Highway 101 congestion negatively impacts the public safety, environment, economy, and quality of life of the Carpinteria community. As you are aware, the long-planned freeway widening projects in our area are now underway. During much of the construction period, that is expected to last over a decade, congestion will be exacerbated along with the associated negative impacts on the Carpinteria community. Commuter rail service between Ventura and Santa Barbara, along with other congestion-relief projects and programs, are critical to providing some relief and therefore, California Transportation Commission funding of the project as requested would be very timely.

Once again, the City of Carpinteria City Council respectfully requests that the California Transportation Commission approve the funding request made by SBCAG for \$7.5 million in support of commuter rail project capital improvements. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me or City Manager Dave Durlinger.

Sincerely,

Al Clark  
Mayor  
City of Carpinteria

Cc: City Council  
Honorable Chair and SBCAG Board Members  
Jim Kemp, SBCAG Executive Director  
Marty Tuttle, Deputy Director of Caltrans/Modal Programs  
Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5  
Jerry Wilmoth, UPRR