

DRAFT

September 1, 2015

To: Monterey County State Legislative Representatives

RE: SUPPORT FOR MONTEREY COUNTY SALES TAX LIMIT MEASURE

Dear Senator/Assemblymember _____:

On behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for legislation that would provide an exemption from the current two percent cap for the Transportation Agency for Monterey County to pursue a local sales tax measure, subject to voter approval, for transportation in 2016.

Existing law authorizes various local governmental entities to levy a transactions and use tax for specific purposes, in accordance with the Transactions and Use Tax Law, including a requirement that the combined rate of all taxes that may be imposed under that law in the county may not exceed 2%.

TAMC is considering a 3/8% (0.375%) countywide transportation investment measure, aiming for the November 2016 ballot. However, with other non-transportation tax measures proposed by Monterey County jurisdictions, there will not be sufficient capacity under the 2% local option sales tax cap countywide. The TAMC Board agreed that it is important to continue to pursue a \$20 million/year sales tax measure to provide critically needed investments into Monterey County's transportation system.

This special legislation to provide an exemption to the 2% local option cap would allow TAMC to proceed with its proposed 3/8% sales tax measure. Monterey County's transportation system is in need of critical fixes to provide safer ways for people to get around and get to work, school, and businesses, to support our economy.

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. The reliability of federal and state funding for transportation needs has become tenuous and challenging. There is a significant funding shortfall, making it difficult to maintain existing roads, or to make needed safety and mobility improvements. Many counties have opted to become "self-help" counties with voter approved transportation measures dedicated to meet their local needs. An important component of becoming a "self-help" county is that the community controls the funds and determines how the funds are spent.

I strongly urge you to support TAMC's effort to make Monterey County a "self-help" county to fund transportation infrastructure. Thank you for supporting efforts to improve transportation in California.

Sincerely,

Simon Salinas, Chair
Monterey County Board of Supervisors