

DRAFT SUPPORT LETTER

Date

Dr. Caryl Hart, Chair and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

SUBJECT: Support for Monterey-Salinas Transits SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project: CDP Application #3-23-0288

Dear Chair Hart and Commissioners:

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors enthusiastically supports Monterey-Salinas Transit's SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project for the far-reaching benefits it will provide to our communities now and into the future. This generational investment in high quality public transit will improve access for all our residents and especially for those living in disadvantaged communities making minimum wage.

In order to help our low-income workers, those historically disadvantaged, students, seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans realize their goals and dreams, frequent and reliable public transit is critical to our collective success.

In fact, 17% of the Monterey County population resides within a 15-minute walk to a SURF! bus stop while 94% of the County population lives within a 15-minute walk to a bus stop with connecting service. In more detail, these populations will specifically and directly benefit from the SURF! project:

- 69% are non-White or of Hispanic/Latino origin
- 14% live in poverty
- 11% live with a disability
- 5% are veterans

We support the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project and urge you to do the same for the positive impact it will have for generations to come. When implemented, the SURF! project advances environmental justice by providing low-cost transportation for our students, hourly wage earners, those accessing healthcare and those needing to cool off at the beach in the summer. The cost to ride is \$2 for 2 hours or \$1 for 2 hours for students, seniors, veterans, persons with disabilities, and humanitarian parolees.

By using only zero-emissions buses on the SURF!, our community benefits from GHG reductions and lowering harmful air pollution from cars and light trucks. This means a

decreased pollution burden on those who can afford it the least and fewer student asthma cases for people living in disadvantaged community areas along the SURF! corridor.

It is for these compelling and important reasons that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors urges the Coastal Commission's support for a Coastal Development Permit for the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chair
Supervisor Glenn Church, District 2

CC:

- Dr. Kate Hucklebridge, Executive Director, California Coastal Commission
- Dan Carl, District Director, Central Coast & Central Coast (North) / California Coastal Commission
- Kevin Kahn, Central Coast District Manager / California Coastal Commission
- Carl Sedoryk, MST General Manager
- Lisa Rheinheimer, MST Assistant General Manager
- Michelle Overmeyer, MST Director of Planning & Innovation
- Todd Muck, TAMC Executive Director