



August 15, 1995

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

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MEMO TO: MTA DIRECTORS *RAS*
FROM: BARRY ENGELBERG - DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS
SUBJECT: JOINT LETTER ON REDIRECTION OF TDA
FUNDS

As part of the MTA's efforts to forestall the redirection of Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds to the County of Los Angeles, staff has drafted a letter to the Los Angeles County legislative delegation and other key leaders in the State Legislature.

Please review this draft and submit your comments to Gary Clark, (213) 244-7450 or Claudette Moody, (213) 244-6525 as soon as possible. You can also fax your approval or comments to (213) 244-6011.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

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We represent a majority of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board of Directors. We respectfully request that you oppose any legislative initiative to redirect transportation funds to the County of Los Angeles which does not reflect a local consensus position.

As you know, Governor Pete Wilson vetoed SB 75, a bill which would have authorized the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to annually redirect from transportation programs \$75 million in Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds for a five-year period. This redirection of funds would have been at the expense of vital transportation services and projects, Los Angeles County jobs, and federal matching funds. The MTA's official position is to oppose giving the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors this authority.

The MTA Board is cognizant, however, that many governmental entities are experiencing difficult financial times. Indeed, the MTA has laid off hundreds of transportation workers over the last two and a half years, significantly reduced its budget and delayed the implementation of programs in order to reflect new fiscal realities. Many cities in Los Angeles County have had to implement similar cost-cutting measures.

In light of the fact that Los Angeles County may be in a financial emergency, however, the MTA Board has directed Franklin E. White, the MTA's Chief Executive Officer, to participate if requested by the county in discussions with Sally Reed, County Administrative Officer, on ways in which to address this situation. Any agreement reached will be presented to the MTA Board for approval.

Many cities and civic organizations have already indicated to you and the Governor their preference for a local solution to this issue. We also urge that any legislative action only serve to codify a local agreement between the County of Los Angeles and the MTA.

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Please feel free to contact any of us or MTA staff if you have any questions or comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

Larry Zarian

John Fasana

Richard Riordan

Gloria Molina

Yvonne Burke

Raul Perez

Richard Alatorre

Carol Schatz

James Cragin

Mel Wilson

Deanne Dana

cc: Gov. Pete Wilson

The Honorable Fred Aguiar
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Assemblymember, District 48
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The Honorable Paula Boland
Assemblymember, District 38
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The Honorable Debra Bowen
Assemblymember, District 53
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The Honorable Louis Caldera
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