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August 16, 1995

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ALTERNATES
FROM: BARRY ENGELBERG *BE*
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER JUANITA MCDONALD
REGARDING THE METRO RAIL PROJECT

Attached is a letter from Assemblymember Juanita McDonald (D-Carson) to United States Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña regarding the Los Angeles Metro Rail project.

Assemblymember McDonald expresses her disappointment that the Senate appropriated only \$45 million for the Metro Rail project. She acknowledges several problems but reaffirms her support for the project and the MTA.

attachment

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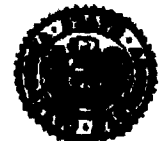
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August 4, 1995



The Honorable Federico Pena
 Secretary of Transportation
 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 10200
 Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Pena:

As a member of the California State Assembly and Los Angeles County's state delegation, I want to express my support for the Metro Red Line Segment III project. I am deeply disappointed that the Senate appropriated only \$45 million -- almost two-thirds less than the amount requested -- for this vital project which will bring increased mobility and economic vitality to the Los Angeles region.

I am concerned that recent actions in Sacramento, specifically relative to SB 75 (Polanco) and a series of negative articles in the press, may have sent the wrong message to Congress. As you may know, SB 75 would have shifted \$75 million annually for five years from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to the County of Los Angeles to assist the county in dealing with their budget crisis. The legislation was a short-sighted attempt at providing relief to Los Angeles county. The shift of funds would have severely impacted many transportation projects including the Metro Red Line, Pasadena Blue Line and would have jeopardized the safety and security of those Los Angeles County citizens who daily rely on the MTA to provide their basic transportation needs. Despite a concerned effort to the contrary, however, the Governor vetoed SB 75 based largely in his belief that the bill did not provide a long-term comprehensive solution to Los Angeles County's problems. The Governor also expressed his confidence in the MTA's efforts to responsibly build a first-class transportation system in Los Angeles County.

Unfortunately, there have been several attempts by a handful of local politicians to terminate the Metro Red Line Project. I, too, have expressed concerns regarding several incidents involving the project but have confidence that the MTA is now exercising proper management and oversight of the project.

Representing the Cities of Carson,
 Harbor City and Harbix

Post-It Fax Note	7671	Date	8/14/95	Page	2
To	Franklin White	From	Assemblyman McDonald		
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The Honorable Federico Pena
August 4, 1995
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The MTA's critics are a very vocal minority who do not represent the sentiment of the majority of the Los Angeles County delegation. I hope that this letter will demonstrate that there is support for the project here in Los Angeles County.

Please feel free to contact me anytime on this issue.

Sincerely,



JUANITA M. MCDONALD, Member
California State Legislature
Fifty-fifth Assembly District

cc: Gordon Linton, Administrator
Federal Transit Administration