



City of Mission Viejo

Office of the Mayor and City Council

Edward Sachs
Mayor

Greg Rath
Mayor Pro Tem

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Council Member

Brian Goodell
Council Member

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Council Member

May 14, 2018

The Honorable Jim Beall
Chair, Senate Transportation & Housing Committee
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Oppose AB 382 (Chavez)

Dear Chairman Beall:

The City of Mission Viejo opposes AB 382 as it would detrimentally impact mobility improvements in South Orange County and the region by eliminating the Transportation Corridor Agencies' (TCA) ability to add new road capacity in Orange County, which can currently be done by TCA at no cost to California taxpayers.

Removing the ability of the TCA to plan for and construct new road projects is illogical. The single most successful public-private partnership in California's history to date has resulted in the development of 51 miles of toll roads in Orange County—constructed at a time when the State and County had no funding or capacity to provide the needed infrastructure. The original system planned for a 67-mile toll road network allowing for regional connectivity from the Orange/San Diego County line to State Route (SR) 91 in north Orange County. The last 16 miles of the system, which would connect I-5 and SR 241, has not been completed for many legal, environmental and community reasons that are well-documented.

Nevertheless, traffic congestion is real, and robust solutions must be identified and implemented. TCA's unique ability to plan for, finance and construct new road capacity in our region, all without taxpayer dollars, is an enormously useful tool in our regional transportation toolbox that we desperately need.

In the next few months, TCA has stated that it will commence a formal environmental study required by the California Environmental Quality Act/National Environmental Protection Act (CEQA/NEPA) under the supervision of Caltrans. Several regional transportation infrastructure improvement alternatives along the I-5 corridor and major local arterial roads in South Orange County will be analyzed, including a no-build option and alternatives that would and would not connect I-5 to SR 241. Through this intensive



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process, the project will be clearly defined and further clarified by the results of a completed Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) and the subsequent recommended alternatives in the coming years. The City of Mission Viejo supports this process.

Traffic will continue to deteriorate over the next 20 years. According to the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) 2018 Long Range Transportation Plan, by 2040 traffic delays will increase by 66 percent. In addition, the Center for Demographic Research (CDR) at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) projects the population in Orange County will grow by an additional 250,000 people during that same timeframe. CDR's study also indicates the construction of 22,000 new homes in South Orange County alone. Caltrans, OCTA and TCA all have an equally important role to play in relieving the traffic pressures created by this growth. Now is the time for all players to remain at the table; to do anything else is irresponsible.

Sincerely,



Edward Sachs
Mayor

- c: Senate Transportation & Housing Committee
The Honorable Toni G. Atkins, Senate President pro Tempore
The Honorable Rocky Chavez, Assembly Member, 76th District
Manny Leon, Senate Transportation & Housing Committee, Principal Consultant
Darrell Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, Orange County Transportation Authority

