



August 26, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire
President pro Tempore, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom, pro Tem McGuire, and Speaker Rivas:

We, the undersigned members of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation, write to express our support for the reauthorization of the state's Cap-and-Trade program, outline our priorities for the program going forward and respectfully request \$3.3 billion annually from the fund be invested in Los Angeles County regional transit.

We reject efforts to sabotage or cancel the high-speed rail project outright, as President Trump attempted to do. Resetting the politics of high-speed rail means ensuring fairness for all regions of California. Our communities deserve their fair share. The need is clear that Los Angeles County has unique challenges:

Driving demand is highest in Los Angeles County: According to Caltrans' 2024 Mobility Performance Report, District 7 (Los Angeles/Ventura) records nearly 9 billion daily freeway miles traveled—more than any other Caltrans district. When combined with neighboring Southern California districts (8, 11, and 12), the SCAG region carries over 21 billion daily freeway miles, dwarfing the Central Valley's ~2.4 billion.

Ridership and equity demands: Millions of Los Angeles County residents already depend on Metro bus and rail, Metrolink, and municipal operators. Yet service has not kept pace with need: transit ridership is still 25–30% below pre-pandemic levels, even as freeway traffic has nearly fully rebounded. Without

Letter to Governor Newsom, pro Tem McGuire, and Speaker Rivas
August 26, 2025

significant investment, super-commuters from the Valley, South LA, and the Inland Empire remain locked into long, expensive car trips.

Climate and health urgency: The South Coast Air Basin continues to be in extreme non-attainment of federal ozone standards. Los Angeles County communities—especially in the San Fernando Valley, South Los Angeles, and along goods-movement corridors—bear the brunt of pollution from vehicles and freight.

In light of previous investments in the Bay Area and the Central Valley transportation, and the current proposal to appropriate \$1 billion annually for high-speed rail, fairness and climate science require that \$3.3 billion annually be invested in Los Angeles County regional transit. This funding should:

1. Support operations to increase bus and rail service frequency, improve reliability, and restore transit as a competitive option for daily commuters.
2. Fund capital improvements, including regional connectors to high speed rail, bus rapid transit corridors, electrification of bus and rail fleets, first/last-mile safety and grade separations that reduce delays.
3. Advance equity mandates, by prioritizing projects with high road labor standards and community benefits that serve disadvantaged communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



TINA MCKINNOR
61st Assembly District
Chair, LA County Legislative Delegation



MARIA ELENA DURAZO
26th Senate District
Vice Chair, LA County Legislative Delegation



MARK GONZALEZ
54th Assembly District



HENRY STERN
27th Senate District



CAROLINE MENJIVAR
20th Senate District



LOLA SMALLWOOD-CUEVAS
28th Senate District



SUSAN RUBIO
22nd Senate District



JOHN HARABEDIAN
41st Assembly District



BLANCA PACHECO
64th Assembly District



MIKE GIPSON
65th Assembly District



BOB ARCHULETTA
30th Senate District



LENA GONZALEZ
33rd Senate District



BEN ALLEN
24th Senate District



SASHA RENEE PEREZ
25th Senate District

Letter to Governor Newsom, pro Tem McGuire, and Speaker Rivas
August 26, 2025

Michelle R AD53

Jim Newsom AD66

Sharon Quirk-Silva AD67

Blanca E. Rubio
AD48

Isur B AD55

Jim L AD62

Risa Calderon AD56

S AD57

Z AD39

Phil Schi AD40

W Foy AD49

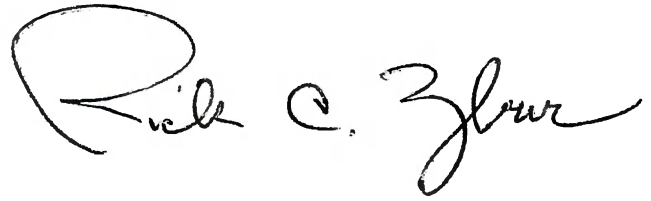
Rep. [Signature] AD49

John A. [Signature] AD69

Letter to Governor Newsom, pro Tem McGuire, and Speaker Rivas
August 26, 2025



LAURA RICHARDSON
35th Senate District



RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR
51st Assembly District



CELESTE RODRIGUEZ
43rd Assembly District