Agenda Item 3A: State Advocacy Letters
September 20, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor of the State of California  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2616 California Coastal Commission: environmental justice – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to support Assembly Bill 2616 - California Coastal Commission: environmental justice.

Our Board opposed this bill in its previous iteration, but is in support of the current bill as amended. This bill would eliminate the original proposal for three additional Coastal Commission Members and instead specify that one of the current appointees be required to work directly with communities in the state that are most burdened by, and vulnerable to, high levels of pollution and issues of environmental justice. The County of Santa Barbara supports the current balance between public appointees and elected representatives and believes the Commission’s ongoing purpose is to uphold access to the coast, work on issues of environmental justice, and always consider disadvantaged communities when deciding on land use issues in the coastal zone. The amended bill supports this purpose and will help burdened and vulnerable communities.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports AB 2616. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District  
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District  
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District  
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
September 20, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX No.: (916) 558-3160

RE: SB 958 County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission - OPPOSE

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to oppose Senate Bill 958 – County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission.

The bill is focused on Los Angeles County, but could set a precedent for other Counties requiring that district boundaries be adjusted after each decennial federal census through a redistricting commission instead of the Board of Supervisors. This could remove local authority and potentially create increased costs and staffing to the proposed Commission. If a precedent is established and all other California counties are required to appoint redistricting commissions, it would remove Santa Barbara County’s local authority to approve adjustments and increase costs to the County.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County opposes SB 958. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsfb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
September 21, 2016

Chairman Donn Harris  
California Arts Council  
1300 I Street, Suite 930  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State-Local Partnership 2016/17 Grant Award Increase

Dear Chairman Harris:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express our support for increasing the California Arts Council’s State-Local Partnership Program 2016/17 base level grant awards.

We would like to express our congratulations on this year’s historic budget increase for the arts, and convey our sincere appreciation to the Council Members and the CAC Staff. The County looks forward to continuing our strong and far-reaching partnership with the CAC. We respectfully request that you consider increasing the State-Local Partnership 2016/17 base level grant awards with a significant increase over the 2015/16 grant awards. The State-Local Partners reach into areas of need and truly improve the health of our communities throughout the state of California.

Our continued partnership and increased funding will ensure an unparalleled opportunity to build our strategic leadership network at the county and local levels to support and implement the CAC’s priority initiatives and long-term goals including bringing more direct services to community members and funding to arts organizations and artists throughout the State. Our collaboration strengthens CAC’s statewide initiatives and strategically nurtures the political commitment from state and local officials to advance your mission.

The County of Santa Barbara joins other Counties in support of the funding the CAC provides to assist arts programs, artists, arts grants, and arts staff at the State-Local Partnership Program organizations. We believe the CAC’s State-Local Partnership Program is essential because it advances the CAC’s work by providing:

- A strategic leadership network at the county and local levels to support and implement the CAC’s priority initiatives and long-term goals;
- The structure to unite county and city arts organizations, local communities, and individuals throughout the entire state who advocate and support CAC’s vision of advancing California through the arts and creativity;
- An effective statewide system to develop strategies that encourage creative innovation and spur economic growth through the arts;
- An advocate in each SLP county to assist Main Street organizations, Chambers of Commerce, cultural, historical, arts, and entertainment organizations and businesses to help establish Cultural Districts.
throughout California (as outlined in new legislation which has empowered the CAC to designate areas as state cultural districts);

- Vital funding for vibrant folk, traditional, and community-based arts and cultural activities to ensure more people have access to programs and events reflective of California's diverse communities;
- Significant support for the advancement of arts education, youth development, and lifelong learning through leadership, partnerships, and policy initiatives at the county, city, and school district levels as well as through funding support to local nonprofits, artists, and direct services to the public;
- Critical annual funding to support programs and staff at all State-Local Partnership Program organizations, which provide essential support to county organizations to leverage local funding and support artists, arts organizations, creative place-making, and arts education programs;
- A strategic statewide collaboration that can establish the political commitment from local elected officials to advance the CAC's mission; and
- A significant method to help ensure that the arts continue to help improve the lives of Californians in all corners of the state.

Furthermore, the County’s 2016 Legislative Platform includes support for the Arts and funding of the CAC to further the efforts outlined above. For these reasons, Santa Barbara County encourages increased funding to the State-Local Partnership Program as it should continue to be one of the primary strategies for effectively supporting and strengthening California through the arts and creativity.

If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsbc.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Members of the California Arts Council
    Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
    Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
    Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
    Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
    Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
    Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
    George Chapjian, Director, Community Services Department
    Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director, Office of Arts & Culture
September 20, 2016

The Honorable Das Williams
Assemblymember, 37th District
State Capitol,
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Transportation Funding and Reform Package – ABX1-26 (Frazier) & SBX1-1 (Beall) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Williams:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support of transportation funding and reform as reflected in bills ABX1-26 and SBX1-1. These reforms would provide crucial infrastructure funding to maintain and improve local streets and roads and state highways. As importantly, the package would safeguard existing revenues meant for transportation projects – redirecting and dedicating them to transportation.

The County of Santa Barbara’s local streets and roads, bridges, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities are facing a current deferred maintenance backlog of over $250 million. Without an immediate investment of new revenue into the system, our infrastructure will continue to decline, which only increases the cost burden on future taxpayers. The transportation funding and reform package as proposed would allow us to reinvest in our existing infrastructure, and make improvements that are long overdue.

For these reasons, the County of Santa Barbara strongly supports any plan that fully funds infrastructure and urges you to take immediate action to find a solution now. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or itoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Senator Jim Beall, 15th Senate District
Assemblymember Jim Frazier, 11th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works
September 20, 2016

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
Senator, 19th District
State Capitol, Rm 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX No.: (916) 651-4919

RE: Transportation Funding and Reform Package – ABX1-26 (Frazier) & SBX1-1 (Beall) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support of transportation funding and reform as reflected in bills ABX1-26 and SBX1-1. These reforms would provide crucial infrastructure funding to maintain and improve local streets and roads and state highways. As importantly, the package would safeguard existing revenues meant for transportation projects — redirecting and dedicating them to transportation.

The County of Santa Barbara’s local streets and roads, bridges, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities are facing a current deferred maintenance backlog of over $250 million. Without an immediate investment of new revenue into the system, our infrastructure will continue to decline, which only increases the cost burden on future taxpayers. The transportation funding and reform package as proposed would allow us to reinvest in our existing infrastructure, and make improvements that are long overdue.

For these reasons, the County of Santa Barbara strongly supports any plan that fully funds infrastructure and urges you to take immediate action to find a solution now. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Peter Adam
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Senator Jim Beall, 15th Senate District
Assemblymember Jim Frazier, 11th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works
September 20, 2016

The Honorable Katcho Achadjian  
Assemblymember, 35th District  
State Capitol, Rm 4098  
Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX No.: (916) 319-2135

RE: Transportation Funding and Reform Package – ABX1-26 (Frazier) & SBX1-1 (Beall) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Achadjian:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support of transportation funding and reform as reflected in bills ABX1-26 and SBX1-1. These reforms would provide crucial infrastructure funding to maintain and improve local streets and roads and state highways. As importantly, the package would safeguard existing revenues meant for transportation projects – redirecting and dedicating them to transportation.

The County of Santa Barbara’s local streets and roads, bridges, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities are facing a current deferred maintenance backlog of over $250 million. Without an immediate investment of new revenue into the system, our infrastructure will continue to decline, which only increases the cost burden on future tax payers. The transportation funding and reform package as proposed would allow us to reinvest in our existing infrastructure, and make improvements that are long overdue including:

- Construct pavement rehabilitation and safety improvements at the Clark Avenue and US Highway 101 Northbound interchange;
- Rehabilitate Jalama Road from US Highway 1 to Jalama County Beach, a 14-mile stretch of road that provides sole access to area residents and visitors;
- Complete pedestrian safety improvements in Old Town Orcutt; and
- Rehabilitate Constellation Way, one of the major collector roads in Vandenberg Village.

In addition the proposed funding and reform package will make investments significant enough to improve the overall condition of Santa Barbara County local streets and roads. For these reasons, the County of Santa Barbara strongly supports any plan that fully funds infrastructure and urges you to take immediate action to find a solution now.
If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or itoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam
Chair, Board of Supervisors

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