



CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

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CITY COUNCIL

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Council Member Fred Minagar
Council Member Risch Paul Sharma

July 7, 2022

The Honorable Laura Friedman
California State Assembly, 43rd District
1021 O Street, Suite 6310
Sacramento, CA 94249

SUBJECT: OPPOSE AB 2237 (Friedman) – Transportation planning: regional transportation improvement plan: sustainable communities strategies: alternative planning strategy: state transportation funding

Dear Assembly Member Friedman,

The City of Laguna Niguel regrets to inform you of our opposition to AB 2237. This bill would represent a significant change to transportation planning and funding structures in California. AB 2237 would prohibit local transportation agencies from funding projects that are otherwise not aligned with the State's climate goals or the most recent Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). Recent amendments further detail the extension of these provisions to locally approved sales taxes for transportation in a way that would complicate the delivery of future projects funded by these revenues and place new restrictions on single occupant vehicle capacity.

By retroactively applying these provisions to sales measures that have already been approved by voters, AB 2237 usurps the will of voters that have already approved transportation sales tax measures and would diminish the trust of voters in any future investments in the State's transportation system. In addition, there are elements of sales tax measures that are not typically included in an SCS including active transportation project, local street and road improvements, and transit/rideshare programs, further complicating the expenditure of funds for those programs after 2022. Lastly, the prohibition against projects that increase single occupant vehicle capacity would also have unintended consequences for SCS plans as a whole and even transit projects that rely on roadway capacity.

We believe in the ability of the voters, not the State, to set the transportation priorities for the region in a way that reflects the needs of the community while still meeting required applicable environmental goals. Should you have any questions about our position, please contact Kevin O'Connor, Management Assistant, at koconnor@cityoflagunaniguel.org.

Sincerely,

Elaine Gennawey
Mayor