The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB or Caltrain) has placed Measure RR on the ballot, which would authorize a retail transactions and use tax (sales tax) of 0.125 percent (one-eighth cent) in the Counties of Santa Clara and San Mateo and the City and County of San Francisco (collectively “the Counties”) for a period of thirty (30) years, estimated to raise approximately $100 million per year. The JPB is authorized to place Measure RR on the ballot under Section 7286.65 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. Prior to placement on the ballot, submission of the measure to the voters was approved by the Boards of Supervisors for the three Counties and the governing boards of Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority (SFMTA).

Currently, Caltrain is primarily funded through passenger fares. Additional funding for Caltrain comes from member agency contributions from VTA, SamTrans, and SFMTA. The stated purpose of the sales tax is to establish a new, dedicated source of revenue to fund the operating and capital expenses of the Caltrain rail service, and for no other purposes. As stated in the full text of Measure RR, the tax proceeds from the measure will be prioritized as follows:

1. To support the operation of Caltrain service levels throughout the corridor from San Francisco to Gilroy;
2. To support the expansion of Caltrain peak hour service from six trains per hour per direction to eight trains per hour per direction, as well as the expansion of the Gilroy service to a minimum of five morning and five afternoon trains;
3. To develop and implement programs to expand access to Caltrain service and facilitate use of the system by passengers of all income levels;
4. To help leverage other local, regional, state and federal investments to advance capital projects necessary to implement the Caltrain Business Plan's 2040 Service Vision, adopted by Caltrain on October 3, 2019; and
5. To provide Caltrain with a steady stream of funding to support the annual operating, maintenance and capital needs of an electrified Caltrain service with increased frequency and capacity.

James R. Williams
County Counsel, County of Santa Clara

Mary E. Hanna-Weir
Deputy County Counsel

The tax will be administered and collected by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration. An independent citizens’ oversight committee will review the administration of the proceeds of the sales tax. A "yes" vote is a vote to approve a sales tax of 0.125% within the Counties for thirty years. A "no" vote is a vote to not approve the sales tax. If at least two-thirds of all voters casting ballots vote "yes" on Measure RR, the sales tax will be approved.

Yes

No
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-40
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PENINSULA CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS BOARD STATE OF CALIFORNIA

* * *

IMPOSING A ONE-EIGHTH OF ONE PERCENT RETAIL TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX TO BE USED FOR OPERATING AND CAPITAL PURPOSES OF THE CALTRAIN RAIL SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (hereinafter referred to as the "JPB") is a joint exercise of powers authority duly formed pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code of the State of California (the "Joint Exercise of Powers Act") and the joint powers agreement by and between the City and County of San Francisco ("CCSF"), the San Mateo County Transit District ("SMCTD"), and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority ("VTA"), restated and dated October 3, 1996; and

WHEREAS, the JPB operates passenger rail service between San Francisco, California and Gilroy, California currently serving 32 stations along the 77-mile corridor, operating approximately 90 weekday trains, which include express, limited, and local trains ("Caltrain rail service"); and

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2018, Part 1.7 (commencing with Section 7286.65) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code of the State of California was amended by California Senate Bill No. 797 to authorize the JPB to submit to the voters of the City and County of San Francisco, and the Counties of San Mateo and Santa Clara (together, the "Counties"), a regional measure proposing to impose a retail transactions and use tax of not more than 0.125 percent to be used for the operating and capital purposes of the Caltrain rail service; and

WHEREAS, the measure may only be submitted to the voters upon (a) a two-thirds vote of the JPB Board of Directors, (b) approval of the Boards of Supervisors of the Counties, and (c) approval of the governing boards of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, SMCTD, and VTA; and

WHEREAS, the JPB has proposed approval of this Resolution that has as its special purpose to authorize the JPB to impose a one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) retail transactions and use tax for a period of thirty (30) years, throughout the three Counties, to fund operating and capital expenses of the Caltrain rail service, and to support the operating and capital needs required to implement the Service Vision adopted by the JPB on October 3, 2019 as part of the Caltrain Business Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. Title; Summary

a. This Resolution shall be known as the "2020 Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Retail Transactions and Use Tax Resolution" and may also be referred to herein as the "Resolution."

b. This Resolution imposes a retail transactions and use tax at the rate of one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) within the City and County of San Francisco, and the Counties of San Mateo and Santa Clara (together, the "Counties") to be operative on the first day of the first calendar quarter commencing not less than 110 days after the adoption of this Resolution by the voters, the authority to levy such tax to remain in effect for thirty (30) years,

Section 2. Definitions.

a. "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board or its successor agency.

b. "Boards of Supervisors" means the Boards of Supervisors in each of the Counties.

c. "Caltrain" means the passenger rail service on the rail line operated by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (or its successor agency) between Gilroy and San Francisco.

d. "CCSF" means the City and County of San Francisco.

e. "Counties" means the City and County of San Francisco and the Counties of San Mateo and Santa Clara. The singular term "County" may also be used to mean any of the Counties.

f. "Department of Tax and Fee Administration" means the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration or any successor thereto.

g. "Government Code" means the Government Code of the State of California, as amended and supplemented from time to time pursuant to its terms.

h. "Member Agencies of the JPB" means CCSF, SMCTD and VTA.

i. "Operative Date" means the date determined as described in Section 5 herein, July 1, 2021.

j. "JPB" means the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (or its successor agency).

k. "Public Utilities Code" means the Public Utilities Code of the State of California, as amended and supplemented from time to time pursuant to its terms.

l. "Revenue and Taxation Code" means the Revenue and Taxation Code of the State of California, as amended and supplemented from time to time pursuant to its terms.

m. "Sales and Use Tax Law" means Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code of the State of California, commencing with Section 6001 thereof, as amended and supplemented from time to time pursuant to its terms.

n. "SMCTD" means the San Mateo County Transit District.
Section 3. Findings.

The Board hereby finds and determines that the recitals set forth above and incorporated herein by reference are true and correct. In addition, the Board hereby finds:

a. The JPB is facing significant and ever increasing structural funding shortfalls which impact its ability to meet its operational needs, address its state of good repair requirements and undertake necessary capital improvements to sustain the Caltrain service.

b. Since its inception pursuant to the Joint Powers Agreement by and between CCsf, SMCTD, and VTA, dated October 3, 1996, the JPB has had no dedicated source of funding other than passenger fares. Instead, the JPB relies on contributions from its Member Agencies to fulfill minimum financial requirements in its operating and capital budgets under two different funding formulas. For capital costs, each of the Member Agencies contributes an equal amount of capital funding each year. The Member Agencies also supplement operating funding based on the percentage of system ridership originating in each County. The levels of both capital and operating funding are determined by the funding capacity of the Member Agency with the least ability to provide its share of funding in any given year, and the amount that Member Agency can make available then becomes the standard against which the contributions of the other Member Agencies are calculated. This approach fosters an uncertain financial and planning environment for the JPB.

c. In an environment of continual escalation in operating, maintenance and repair costs, the JPB does not have the capacity to operate service levels that meet the rising passenger demands for Caltrain service.

d. The JPB’s farebox recovery rate of over 70%, which reflects the proportion of operating costs funded by passenger fares, exceeds all other rail commute services nationwide.

e. The Caltrain service is the seventh largest commuter rail service in the nation and it operates the most efficient such service based on costs per passenger mile.

f. To provide a means to address the JPB’s financial challenges, in 2017 the Governor signed Senate Bill No. 797, introduced by Senator Jerry Hill, authorizing the JPB to implement a new retail transactions and use tax of up to 0.125 percent if (i) the Board of Directors of the JPB adopts, by a two-thirds vote, a resolution submitting the measure to the voters, (ii) the measure is approved by the Boards of Supervisors of each of the Counties, (iii) the measure is approved by the governing boards of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, the SMCTD, and VTA, and (iv) the tax is adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Counties’ voters.

g. The JPB has embarked upon a project to electrify its right of way between San Francisco and San Jose which will transform the Caltrain service into a more environmentally sustainable, quiet and nimble operation commencing in 2022.

h. Although the electrified Caltrain service will eliminate the costs of diesel fuel, Caltrain will confront new system and technological costs for operation and maintenance of the electrified system, the electrical multiple unit rail cars, and the positive train control system.

i. The revenues derived from the 0.125 percent sales tax in the Counties is forecast to be sufficient to cover the operational needs of the Caltrain rail service, which, in turn, will reduce the pressure on the JPB to continually raise passenger fares and will reduce the need for the Member Agencies to contribute funding for operations.

j. Approval of this Resolution will place before the voters of the three Counties the opportunity to provide the JPB with a steady stream of funding to support the annual operating and maintenance needs of an electrified Caltrain service with increased frequency and capacity, which in turn will reduce traffic congestion and air pollution in the three Counties.

Section 4. Imposition of Retail Transactions and Use Tax; Special Purpose; Use of Proceeds.

Subject to the limits imposed by this Resolution and the provisions of Section 7286.65 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, which took effect January 1, 2018, the JPB hereby imposes, in the incorporated and unincorporated territory of the City and County of San Francisco County, County of San Mateo, and County of Santa Clara, an additional retail transactions and use tax at the rate of one-eighth of one percent (0.125%), such tax (i) to be imposed beginning on the first day of the first calendar quarter commencing not less than 110 days after the approval of the retail transactions and use tax by the electors voting on the ballot measure set forth in Section 17 hereof, (ii) to remain in effect for a period of thirty (30) years, and (iii) to be for the operating and capital purposes of the Caltrain rail service.

More specifically, this Resolution, if adopted, should be interpreted so as to:

a. impose a new one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) retail transactions and use tax in accordance with the provisions of Part 1.6 (commencing with Section 7251) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and consistent with Article XIII C of the California Constitution;

b. set a maximum term of thirty (30) years during which time the retail transactions and use tax shall be imposed;

c. incorporate provisions identical to those of the Sales and Use Tax Law insofar as those provisions are not inconsistent with the requirements and limitations contained in Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code;
Section 5. Applicability; Effective Date; Operative Date and Period of Tax Imposition, Termination Date.

d. establish that the retail transactions and use tax be administered and collected by the Department of Tax and Fee Administration in a manner that adapts itself as fully as practicable to, and requires the least possible deviation from, the existing statutory and administrative procedures followed by the Department of Tax and Fee Administration in administering and collecting state transactions and use taxes as such terms are defined in the Sales and Use Tax Law;

e. authorize the administration of the retail transactions and use tax in a manner that will, to the degree possible, be consistent with the provisions of Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, minimize the cost of collecting the retail transactions and use taxes and at the same time minimize the burden of record keeping upon persons subject to taxation under the provisions of this Resolution;

f. require that proceeds of the Tax imposed by this Resolution be for the operating and capital purposes of the Caltrain rail service and that the tax revenues from this measure will be prioritized:

1. To support the operation of Caltrain service levels throughout the corridor from San Francisco to Gilroy, including, but not limited to, expanded service and increased capacity realized through the operation of an electrified system. The required support includes the maintenance of equipment, infrastructure and systems necessary to sustain and expand the service;

2. To support the infrastructure, rolling stock, and capital projects necessary to advance the expansion of the Caltrain peak hour service from six trains per hour per direction to eight trains per hour per direction, as well as the expansion of the Gilroy service to a minimum of five morning and five afternoon trains;

3. To develop and implement programs to expand access to the Caltrain service and facilitate use of the system by passengers of all income levels, including establishing an affordability program with consideration of discounted passes and/or additional means-based fare discounts informed by Caltrain’s participation in the regional Means Based Fare Pilot Program;

4. To help leverage other local, regional, state and federal investments to advance capital projects necessary to implement the Caltrain Business Plan’s 2040 Service Vision, adopted by the JPB on October 3, 2019, including, but not limited to: the San Francisco Downtown Extension project including the Pennsylvania Avenue alignment, the extension of electrified train service to Gilroy, and grade separations throughout the Caltrain rail corridor; and

5. To provide the JPB with a steady stream of funding to support the annual operating, maintenance and capital needs of an electrified Caltrain service with increased frequency and capacity, which in turn will reduce traffic congestion and air pollution in the Counties; and

g. authorize the issuance, from time to time, of limited tax bonds to finance transportation improvements consistent with the purpose of the Tax and applicable law.

Section 6. Administration of the 2020 Sales Tax Proceeds

a. Responsibility for Administration and Implementation. The JPB or a successor agency, if any, will administer the 2020 Sales Tax Proceeds.

b. Restrictions on the Use of Tax Proceeds. Tax Proceeds must be spent for the operating and capital purposes of the Caltrain rail service.

c. Environmental Review. Environmental reporting, review, and approval procedures as provided under the National Environmental Policy Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, or other applicable laws will be adhered to as a prerequisite to implementation of any project funded with Tax Proceeds.

d. Independent Citizens Oversight; Audits. Administration of the Tax Proceeds will be subject to review by the nine-member JPB Citizens Advisory Committee, or a similar successor independent citizens oversight body, to verify that Tax Proceeds are invested in a way that is consistent with the purpose of the Tax.

Annually, the JPB shall have an audit conducted by an independent auditor. The auditor shall review the receipt of Tax Proceeds and expenditure of Tax Proceeds. The JPB independent Citizens Advisory Committee shall receive the audit findings report, hold a public hearing and issue a report annually to provide the public with information regarding how Tax Proceeds are being spent. The hearing will be held at a public meeting subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Section 7. Contract with the State.

Prior to the Operative Date, as provided in the Revenue and Tax Code, the JPB will contract with the Department of Tax and Fee Administration to perform all functions incident to the administration and operation of this Resolution and the 2020 Sales Tax; provided that, if the JPB shall not have contracted with the Department of Tax and Fee Administration prior to the Operative Date of this Resolution, the JPB shall nevertheless so contract and in such case, the Operative Date of this Resolution shall be the first day of the first calendar quarter following the execution of such a contract and references herein to June 30, 2051 shall be extended to permit collection of the 2020 Sales Tax for up to thirty (30) years.

Section 8. Transactions and Use Tax Rate of One-Eighth of One Percent; Excise Tax Rate of One-Eighth of One Percent

a. Transactions Tax Rate. For the privilege of selling tangible personal property at retail, a tax is hereby imposed upon all retailers in the incorporated and unincorporated territory of San Francisco.
Francisco County, San Mateo County, and Santa Clara County at the rate of one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) of the gross receipts of any retailer from the sale of all tangible personal property sold at retail in the Counties on and after July 1, 2021. This tax shall be imposed for a maximum period of thirty (30) years.

b. Use Tax Rate. An excise tax is hereby imposed on the storage, use, or other consumption in San Francisco County, San Mateo County, and Santa Clara County of tangible personal property purchased from any retailer on and after July 1, 2021 for storage, use, or other consumption in the Counties at the rate of one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) of the sales price of the property. This tax shall be imposed for a maximum period of thirty (30) years.

Section 9. Place of Sale.

For the purposes of this Resolution, all retail sales are consummated at the place of business of the retailer unless the tangible personal property sold is delivered by the retailer to an out-of-state destination or to a common carrier for delivery to an out-of-state destination. The gross receipts from such sales shall include delivery charges, when such charges are subject to state sales and use tax, regardless of the place to which delivery is made. In the event a retailer has no permanent place of business in the state or has more than one place of business, the place or places at which the retail sales are consummated shall be determined under rules and regulations to be prescribed and adopted by the Department of Tax and Fee Administration.

Section 10. Adoption of Provisions of State Revenue and Taxation Code.

Except as otherwise provided in this Resolution and except as in so far as they are inconsistent with the provisions of Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, all of the provisions of Part 1 (commencing with Section 6001) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code are hereby adopted and made part of this Resolution as though fully set forth herein.

Section 11. Limitations on Adoption of State Law and Collection of Use Taxes.

In adopting the provisions of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, wherever the State of California is named or referred to as the taxing agency, the name of the JPB shall be substituted therefor. The substitution, however, shall not be made: (i) when the word "State" is used as part of the title of the State Controller, the State Treasurer, the State Board of Control, the Department of Tax and Fee Administration, State Treasury, or the Constitution of the State of California; (ii) when the result of that substitution would require action to be taken by or against the JPB or any agent, officer, or employee thereof rather than by or against the Department of Tax and Fee Administration, in performing the functions incident to the administration or operation of this Resolution; (iii) in those sections, including but not necessarily limited to, sections referring to the exterior boundaries of the State of California, where the result of the substitution would be to (a) provide an exemption from the 2020 Sales Tax with respect to certain sales, storage, use, or other consumption of tangible personal property which would not otherwise be exempt from the 2020 Sales Tax while such sales, storage, use, or other consumption remains subject to tax by the State of California under the provisions of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, or (b) impose the 2020 Sales Tax with respect to certain sales, storage, use, or other consumption of tangible personal property which would not be subject to tax by the State of California under said provisions of the Revenue and Taxation Code; and (iv) in Sections 6701, 6702 (except in the last sentence thereof), 6711, 6715, 6737, 6797, or 6828 of the Revenue and Taxation Code. The names of "San Francisco County, San Mateo County, and Santa Clara County" shall be substituted for the word "state" in the phrase "retailer engaged in business in this state" in Section 6203 and in the definition of that phrase in Section 6203.

Section 12. Permit Not Required.

If a seller's permit has been issued to a retailer under Section 6067 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, an additional transactor's permit shall not be required by this Resolution.

Section 13. Exemptions, Exclusions, and Credits.

a. There shall be excluded from the measure of the 2020 Sales Tax the amount of any transactions and use tax imposed by the State of California or by any city, city and county, or county pursuant to the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law or the amount of any state-administered transactions and use tax.

b. There are exempted from the computation of the amount of transactions tax portion of the 2020 Sales Tax gross receipts derived from:

1. Sales of tangible personal property, other than fuel or petroleum products, to operators of aircraft to be used or consumed principally outside the Counties in which the sale is made and directly and exclusively in the use of such aircraft as common carriers of persons or property under the authority of the laws of the State of California, the United States, or any foreign government.

2. Sales of property to be used outside the Counties which is shipped to a point outside the Counties, pursuant to the contract of sale, by delivery to such point by a retailer or his agent, or by delivery by the retailer to a carrier for shipment to a consignee at such point. For the purposes of this subsection, delivery to a point outside the Counties shall be satisfied:

i. with respect to vehicles (other than commercial vehicles) subject to registration pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 4000) of Division 3 of the Vehicle Code, aircraft licensed in compliance with Section 21411 of the Public Utilities Code, and undocumented vessels registered under Division 3.5 (commencing with Section 9840) of the Vehicle Code by registration to an out-of-Counties address and by a declaration under penalty of perjury, signed by the buyer, stating that such address is, in fact, his or her principal place of residence; and

ii. with respect to commercial vehicles, by registration to a place of business out-of-Counties, and a declaration under penalty of perjury, signed by the buyer, that the vehicle will be operated from that address.

3. Sale of tangible personal property if the seller is obligated to furnish the property for a fixed price pursuant to a contract entered into prior to the Operative Date of this Resolution; and

4. A lease of tangible personal property which is a continuing sale of such property for any period of time for which the lessor is obligated to lease the property for an amount
5. For the purposes of numbered sections 3 and 4 of this Section 13(b), the sale or lease of tangible personal property shall be deemed not to be obligated pursuant to a contract or lease for any period of time for which any party to the contract or lease has the unconditional right to terminate the contract upon notice, whether or not such right is exercised.

c. There are exempted from the use tax imposed by this Resolution, the storage, use or other consumption in the Counties of tangible personal property:

1. The gross receipts from the sale of which have been subject to a transactions tax under any state-administered transactions and use tax ordinance;

2. Other than fuel or petroleum products purchased by operators of aircraft and used or consumed by such operators directly and exclusively in the use of such aircraft as common carriers of persons or property for hire or compensation under a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued pursuant to the laws of the State of California, the United States, or any foreign government. This exemption is in addition to the exemptions provided in Section 6366 and 6366.1 of the Revenue and Taxation Code of the State of California;

3. If the purchaser is obligated to purchase the property for a fixed price pursuant to a contract entered into prior to the Operative Date of this Resolution; and

4. If the possession of, or the exercise of any right or power over, the tangible personal property arises under a lease which is a continuing purchase of such property for any period of time for which the lessee is obligated to lease the property for an amount fixed by a lease prior to the Operative Date of this Resolution.

5. For the purposes of numbered sections 3 and 4 of this Section 13(c), above, storage, use, or other consumption, or possession, or exercise of any right or power over, tangible personal property shall be deemed not to be obligated pursuant to a contract or lease for any period of time during which any party to the contract or lease has the unconditional right to terminate the contract or lease upon notice, whether or not such right is exercised.

6. Except as provided in numbered section 7 of this Section 13(c), below, a retailer engaged in business in the County or Counties shall not be required to collect use tax from the purchaser of tangible personal property, unless the retailer ships or delivers the property into the County or Counties or participates within the County or Counties in making the sale of the property, including, but not limited to, soliciting or receiving the order, either directly or indirectly, at a place of business of the retailer in the County or Counties or through any representative, agency, canvasser, solicitor, subsidiary or person in the County or Counties under the authority of the retailer.

7. "A retailer engaged in business in the Counties" shall also include any retailer of any of the following: vehicles subject to registration pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 14. Revenue and Taxation Code Amendments.

All amendments to Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code relating to sales and use taxes and which are not inconsistent with Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and all amendments to Part 1.6 and Part 1.7 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, enacted subsequent to the effective date of this Resolution as described in Section 5 hereof, shall automatically become part of this Resolution; provided, however, that no such amendment shall operate so as to affect the rate of tax imposed by this Resolution.

Section 15. Issuance of Bonds.

From time to time, pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, the JPB is authorized to issue limited tax bonds payable from, and secured by a pledge of, Tax Proceeds for the operating and capital purposes of the Caltrain rail service.

Maximum bonded indebtedness which may be outstanding at any one time may not exceed the estimated proceeds of the 2020 Sales Tax as determined by the JPB.

Nothing herein shall limit or restrict in any way the power and authority of the JPB to issue bonds, notes or other obligations, to enter into loan agreements, leases, reimbursement agreements, standby bond purchase agreements, interest rate swap agreements or other derivative contracts or to engage in any other transaction under the Public Utilities Code, the Government Code or any other applicable law.

Section 16. Ballot Measure.

There shall be proposed to the voters of San Francisco County, San Mateo County, and Santa Clara County the following proposition:
ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE RR-Continued

As the Bay Area recovers from the pandemic and people get back to work, traffic congestion will return. Let's make sure we don't lose a vital lifeline and affordable transit alternative in the process. Vote Yes on RR.

Cindy Chavez
Caltrain Board of Directors and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

Sam Liccardo
Mayor, City of San Jose

Yoriko Kishimoto
Friends of Caltrain and Former Mayor, City of Palo Alto

Shiloh Ballard
Chair, League of Conservation Voters

Ahmad Thomas
CEO, Silicon Valley Leadership Group

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE RR

Sales taxes are regressive taxes that hurt the poor and middle class. The current coronavirus pandemic has highlighted need to sometimes keep people separated. Mass transit can lead to mass infection.

The Santa Clara County Health Department recommends "Do not use public transportation" if you have Covid 19 or may have encountered someone with Covid 19.

We need to rethink our options—not just throw more money at trains.

Measure RR would raise over $100 million each year for three decades for the operation of trains that may not even be used. That is $3,000,000,000.

It is really a guaranteed GRAVY TRAIN for certain public employees and private contractors at the expense of everyone, most of whom will never ride the train.

In addition, more money for this train line can be expected to encourage the continued drive for HIGH-SPEED RAIL barreling up and down the Peninsula—again just to benefit special interests.

It has been said that one definition of "insanity" is doing the same thing over and over again—yet expecting different results.

Let us stop the insanity!

Caltrain has lost more than 95% of its ridership. Caltrain ridership may not recover, so a 30-year sales tax to increase service on Caltrain does not make sense, particularly when existing transportation sales taxes remain, and can fund Caltrain at its current and past service levels.

Do not be railroaded. Vote No on RR.

Aren't you tapped out?

For more information: www.SVTaxpayers.org

Mark W.A. Hinkle
President: Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association

Brian Holtz
Director, Purissima Hills Water District

Mary Gingell
Former Manager, Commute Services, Southern Pacific Transportation CO.

Steven Haug
ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE RR

Our local communities are currently devastated by the government shutdown of the economy because of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Low and middle income earners and the unemployed cannot afford adding a regressive sales tax at this time, let alone one scheduled to run for thirty years.

The pandemic has raised questions about the health and safety of public transportation overall, and with workers working remotely, a situation likely to continue for the foreseeable future and possibly permanently, the need to fund increased Caltrain service and costly upgrades is just not there.

**Caltrain has lost more than 95% of its ridership during COVID-19.**

While Caltrain ridership may eventually recover, a 30-year sales tax to collect and spend large sums to expand Caltrain service doesn't make sense, particularly when existing transportation sales taxes remain, and can fund Caltrain at its current and past service levels.

Existing transportation sales taxes fund the three county transit agencies, Muni, VTA, and SAMTRANS, which in turn subsidize Caltrain with $30 million/year in taxpayer funds. Passing the proposed Caltrain sales tax would allow Muni, VTA, and SAMTRANS to keep the $30 million/year to themselves rather than subsidize Caltrain. The proposed Caltrain sales tax, however, doesn't just plan to replace this $30 million/year in subsidies, but instead raise $100 million/year, netting an additional $70 million/year for Caltrain, and an additional $30 million for the other transit agencies, at a time when citizens can least afford it, and when transit may be used a lot less.

**Please vote no on the Caltrain sales tax, Measure RR.**

For more information: www.SVTaxpayers.org

Mark W.A. Hinkle
President: Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association

Brian Holtz
Director, Purissima Hills Water District

Mary Gingell
Former Manager Commute Services, Southern Pacific Transportation Co.

Steven B. Haug

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REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE RR

Measure RR's lone opponents have opposed virtually every Santa Clara County ballot measure over the past decade. But we do agree on one key issue: our communities have been devastated by COVID-19, and so has Caltrain and public transit.

We have a chance today to do better than return to the "old normal" of endless traffic congestion, long commutes and more pollution. We can come out of this crisis with a "new normal" of less traffic and cleaner air. Measure RR is a key component of that new normal, and of bringing jobs back to the Bay Area.

**Measure RR will help us emerge stronger than before. Here's why:**

Voting Yes on RR will remove thousands of cars from highways every day. Without Caltrain, traffic congestion will reach complete gridlock, far worse than before COVID-19.

Measure RR invests in cleaner, quieter and more environmentally friendly trains, reducing air and noise pollution.

Measure RR protects Caltrain as affordable and reliable transit. Thousands of essential workers—it nurses, teachers and first responders—rely on Caltrain daily. They deserve fast, consistent and safe transportation.

**Citizens' oversight and independent financial audits ensure transparency and accountability.** Every penny must support Caltrain's efforts to relieve traffic congestion, reduce pollution and increase efficiency.

Don't fall victim to the naysayers' scare tactics: Measure RR only adds one penny to an $8 purchase and essentials like groceries and medicine are exempt. That's a small price to pay to prevent traffic congestion and save Caltrain.

Vote Yes on RR—Rescue Caltrain, Reduce Traffic.

RescueCaltrain.org

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Anna G. Eshoo
United States Congresswoman

Richard Constantine
Mayor of Morgan Hill, Retired Firefighter

Margaret Abe-Koga
Mayor of Mountain View, Board Member of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)

Ben Field
Executive Officer, South Bay Labor Council