



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA
An Inter-League Organization of the San Francisco Bay Area



November 2, 2009

Mr. Scott Haggerty, Chair, and Commission Members
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. Haggerty,

The problem of climate change is a top priority for action for the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area and for the LWV at all levels of the organization -- national, state, and local. We are asking that MTC join us in recognizing climate change as an extremely urgent problem that threatens irreversible damage to our environment, our economy, and our quality of life, and to take the actions required to meet this challenge.

When the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was adopted last April, we applauded its provisions for a Climate Action Campaign, we were pleased that the Campaign was scheduled for implementation during the first five years of the RTP, and that \$400 million was allocated to fund the program. Recently, however, we became concerned about suggestions that the timing of the climate initiatives might be delayed and their funding radically reduced in favor of fully funding selected freeway programs. While we understand that reduced funding for transportation projects due to the depressed economy makes it difficult to implement all RTP projects, we strongly urge that the important Climate Action Campaign be maintained as scheduled and that its funding remain intact.

Several recent activities have given us hope that climate action remains an urgent concern for the staff and Commissioners at MTC. The newly-created Climate Action Working Group that is headed by Commissioner Kinsey and of which you are a member is an important step. We also note with approval that community concerns about the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are being heard and that plans are underway to meet the challenges posed by SB 375.

We hope your recent steps indicate that regional climate action initiatives will be given top priority for funding and implementation. We strongly advocate that programs such as Safe Routes to Schools, Safe Routes to Transit, and their associated educational and advocacy initiatives be included in the Climate Action Campaign, and we look forward to hearing from you about your intentions in this regard.

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area asks that your policies and actions be commensurate with the urgency and magnitude of the climate change problem.

Sincerely,

Marion Taylor
Vice President, Program/Advocacy

Cc: Steve Heminger, Ann Flemer, Alix Bockelman