



Protecting Marin Since 1934

April 24, 2018

Dianne Steinhauser,  
Executive Director  
Transportation Authority of Marin  
900 Fifth Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901

RE: Transportation Authority of Marin's Proposed Measure A Tax Renewal

Dear Ms. Steinhauser:

The Marin Conservation League (MCL) has been tracking development of TAM's proposed Measure A Tax renewal. MCL supports TAM's mission that identifies creating "an efficient and effective system that promotes mobility and accessibility... to all users". However, we believe that TAM's Measure A expenditure planning must also recognize the critical need to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to safeguard environmental health and the future of the planet.

GHG emissions, and associated global warming and pollution, are causing broad damage to human health and communities, to plant and animal resiliency, and to the health of the ocean. We cannot ignore the fact that global warming will foreseeably continue, causing rising sea levels and more frequent and larger storms that will challenge transportation infrastructure and require future adaptation solutions to sea level rise.

It's critical that TAM's proposed Measure A expenditure plan, as well as its strategic vision, emphasize mitigation of GHGs as an overall planning objective equal to that of reducing traffic congestion, given that transportation and traffic account for more than 50% of Marin's total GHG production. TAM's partnership with the County, MCE and others in "owning" responsibility for and achieving GHG reduction is important for the success of the County's Drawdown effort to reduce atmospheric carbon and meet California's SB32 goal of reducing GHG emissions 40% by the year 2030.

Electric vehicles (EVs) offer an extraordinary opportunity to reduce GHG emissions. We request that TAM's Measure A expenditure plan include funds that support rapid transition from combustion engine vehicles to clean EVs, prioritize support of infrastructure that charges EVs in short periods of time, and fund EV municipal fleets and electric buses.

PHONE: 415.485.6257  
FAX: 415.485.6259

EMAIL: [mcl@marinconservationleague.org](mailto:mcl@marinconservationleague.org)  
WEB: [marinconservationleague.org](http://marinconservationleague.org)

ADDRESS: 175 N. Redwood Dr., Ste. 135  
San Rafael, CA 94903-1977



MCL appreciates TAM's investment in the Safe Routes to Schools programs, funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, its planned increase in school transportation service, and incentives for transit and van pool use. All are means that have potential to reduce single occupant auto use, which in turn would reduce congestion, pollution and GHG emissions. Monitoring outcomes for achieving these objectives is also important.

We appreciate the challenges of apportioning limited funds among a wide range of competing transportation needs and that significant effort is being given to finding a good balance. However, TAM is uniquely positioned to help Marin County achieve its significant emission reduction goals for the future. Prioritizing a conversion from combustion engine vehicles to clean electric vehicles will have important impact.

Thank you for considering these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Novy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Linda Novy  
President