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May 19, 2025

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814
Transmitted via Electronic Mail

RE: SB 71 (Wiener) CEQA Exemptions for Clean Transportation Projects – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Caballero:

On behalf of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, I write in **SUPPORT** of **SB 71 (Wiener)**. SB 71 would make clarifying changes to, and modify slightly, the existing statutory exemptions to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for clean transportation projects, established by SB 288 (Wiener) [Chapter 200, Statutes of 2020], while also removing the law's January 1, 2030 sunset date and making it permanent for most clean transportation projects.

In 2020, SB 288 (Wiener) was signed into law, establishing a set of statutory exemptions from CEQA in the Public Resources Code for certain clean transportation projects, with the goal of accelerating clean transportation projects that reduced greenhouse gas emissions. SB 288 was followed by SB 922 (Wiener, 2022), which extended the sunset date, added additional exemptions to the law, and provided clarifying definitional and process amendments.

Since the passage of SB 288 in 2020, over 90 projects statewide have moved forward more quickly and cost effectively, including transit priority projects, bicycle & pedestrian projects, bus rapid transit projects, traffic calming projects, zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure, ADA curb and sidewalk repairs, and transit maintenance facility modernization. As such, we believe the state should make the exemptions permanent, creating long-term certainty for local agencies as they continue to advance projects that further clean transportation options and make public transit more equitable and accessible.

For these reasons, C/CAG respectfully asks that you please support SB 71 and pass this important legislation to the Senate Floor. Thank you for your consideration and please contact Sean Charpentier, C/CAG Executive Director at scharpentier@smcgov.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Rak', is written over the printed name.

Adam Rak, Chair
City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County