METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Attachment B

Dave Cortese, Chair
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Sonoma County and Cities

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Cities of San Mateo County

Tom Azumbrado
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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Cities of Santa Clara County

Tom Bates
Cities of Alameda County

David Campos
City and County of San Francisco

Dorene M. Giacopini
U.S. Department of Transportation

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San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

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Association of Bay Area Governments

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California State Transportation Agency

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Steve Heminger
Executive Director

Alix Bockelman
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Andrew B. Fremier
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

June 22, 2016

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1550 (Gomez) – Oppose Unless Amended

Dear Chair Wieckowski,

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is writing to express our opposition to the current version of AB 1550. As written, the bill would expand the state's reliance upon a flawed definition of disadvantaged communities (DACs) that excludes many communities characterized by poor socio-economic conditions. Specifically, the CalEnviroScreen 2.0 (CES2.0) developed by the California Environmental Protection Agency should not be relied upon exclusively to target Cap and Trade funds to DACs.

Not only does CES2.0 exclude hundreds of census tracts that would be considered disadvantaged based on socio-economic conditions, it also has the perverse public health effect of encouraging growth and development in locations where residents have greater exposure to environmental harm. With 60 percent of Cap and Trade funds continuously appropriated to transportation and affordable housing purposes, we seriously question the merits of a policy that awards more points to applications located in areas with contaminated drinking water, higher pesticide use, groundwater threats, proximity to solid waste and hazardous waste.

Unless AB 1550 is amended to broaden the definition of DACs so that it includes communities with concentrations of people living with poor socio-economic conditions — regardless of their exposure to environmental hazards — we urge a "no" vote on the bill. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Rebecca Long, MTC's Government Relations Manager at 415-778-5289 or rlong@mtc.ca.gov or one of our Sacramento representatives — Scott Wetch or Justin Fanslau at 916-446-3413 or Duncan McFetridge at 916-444-1380.

Sincerely,

Alix A. Bockelman
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Jimmy Gomez

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