

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	17-IEPR-01
Project Title:	General/Scope
TN #:	220432
Document Title:	Legislature Letter to LA County Metropolitan Transportation Agency re Maintaining a clean, flexible & competitive bus proc.
Description:	7.26.17 Legislature Letter to LA County Metropolitan Transportation Agency re Maintaining a clean, flexible and competitive procurement policy
Filer:	Raquel Kravitz
Organization:	California Legislature
Submitter Role:	Public Agency
Submission Date:	7/27/2017 3:39:08 PM
Docketed Date:	7/27/2017



California Legislature

July 26, 2017

Mr. Phillip A. Washington
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Re: Maintaining a clean, flexible and competitive bus procurement policy

Dear Mr. Washington:

As state legislators who represent residents of Los Angeles County, we write to voice our strong support for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency (Metro) proposal to reduce MTA bus fleet emissions by purchasing a combination of zero emission electric buses and near-zero emission natural gas buses powered by renewable natural gas (RNG or biomethane), an ultra-clean fuel derived from biogas.

We are sending this letter because you and your colleagues are now being asked to abandon this common-sense policy and instead adopt one that would lock Metro into purchase of an all-electric bus fleet by 2030. A vote to adopt this direction would undercut the sensible decision Metro made last month to test both Low NOx and electric buses over the next two years before prematurely committing to any technology.

The Legislature, working with Governor Brown, has passed legislation that helps create programs that provide a suite of options for government and private fleets as they transition to cleaner alternatives to help us reach our climate and clean air goals. We know that one size does not fit all and the beauty of programs such as the Heavy-Duty Vehicle Incentive Program (HVIP) is that it allows transit agencies, refuse companies, etc., to select the technology that works for them and provide an incentive voucher to help cover the costs to switch to an alternative, cleaner fuel.

As we continue to focus on cleaning up our freight and goods movement sector, it is imperative that we accelerate use of clean vehicle and equipment technologies and fuels of freight through targeted introduction of zero and near-zero technologies, and continued development of renewable fuels. This includes developing policy options that encourage zero and near-zero vehicles on primary freight corridors (e.g., I-710); examples of such policy options include a separated zero and near-zero freight lane, employing market mechanisms such as favorable road pricing for zero and near-zero vehicles, and developing fuel storage and distribution infrastructure along those corridors.

While we pursue zero emission technologies, it is important that we follow a "big tent" model. California needs a plethora of options if we are going to continue to lead the country and the world in clean air reductions. The Chair of the Air Resources Board, Mary Nichols, said it best at the 2016 Rethink Methane conference in Sacramento, "Many of us have differences in opinion about how we best get to our required air quality or climate targets, but I don't think anyone would deny that". She goes on to say, "we'll continue to rely on combustion for some time in the heavy-duty sector and in applications that can't easily be electrified, we should use renewable fuels in engines that produce the lowest possible NOx and particulate matter emissions. Renewable gas can be a key element to deliver progress in each of these necessary areas."

My colleagues and I urge you to purchase a variety of types of transit buses that best meet the clean air, service, and ridership goals for the Los Angeles area.

Thank you for standing up for our California principles and values of inclusion and choice.

Sincerely,

Raul Bocanegra

A. M. Redden-Thomas

Autum Brun

Mike Simpson, AD 64

[Signature] 45th assembly district

Miguel Santiago AD 53

CC:

The Honorable Eric Garcetti, Chairman and Mayor of the City of Los Angeles
The Honorable Sheila Kuehl, First Vice Chairwoman and Los Angeles County Supervisor, District 3
The Honorable James Butts, Second Vice Chairman and Mayor of the City of Inglewood
The Honorable Kathryn Barger, Board Member Los Angeles County Supervisor, District 5
The Honorable Mike Bonin, Board Member and Los Angeles City Council Member, District 11
The Honorable Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Board Member
The Honorable John Fasana, Board Member and Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Duarte
The Honorable Robert Garcia, Board Member and Mayor of the City of Long Beach
The Honorable Janice Hahn, Board Member and Los Angeles County Supervisor, District 4
The Honorable Paul Krekorian, Board Member and Los Angeles City Council Member, District 2
The Honorable Ara Najarian, Board Member and Glendale City Council Member
The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas, Board Member and Los Angeles County Supervisor, District 2
The Honorable Hilda Solis, Board Member and Los Angeles County Supervisor, District 1
The Honorable Carrie Bowen, Non-voting Board Member and Director of Caltrans District 7