



September 12, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to AB 805 – County of San Diego transportation agencies

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the City of San Marcos, I am writing to inform you of the City's opposition to AB 805, which would make significant changes to the boards of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), the North County Transit District (NCTD), and the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS).

The City is opposed to the weighted voting process required by AB 805, since it would shift the agencies from requiring cooperation from all cities to instead concentrating the power of the SANDAG and NCTD boards to the largest cities. Since those larger cities may vote their best interests and will not need to seek cooperation from other parts of the county, a majority of cities could easily be left out of important transportation and regional planning decisions that affect all of us.

While we appreciate the audit and financing provisions in AB 805, we believe the weighted voting process removes the requirement that SANDAG and NCTD members think about how their votes affect our transportation system as a whole. San Diego County residents go to work and school throughout the county, so it is important that we think regionally and vote cooperatively when it comes to important planning decisions. By making significant changes to the boards' voting processes, the bill removes this requirement.

We are also strongly opposed to the recently added amendment that infringes on the rights of residents to vote on SANDAG governance changes themselves. This amendment runs afoul of the democratic process and keeps our residents from voting their own wishes on proposed changes at the regional level.

For these reasons, the City of San Marcos opposes AB 805, and we respectfully request your veto of the bill.

Sincerely,

James M. Desmond
Mayor