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March 1, 2007

Members of the Transportation Funding Task Force  
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
1523 Pacific Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3911

Dear Members of the Transportation Funding Task Force,

I am writing because events in Sacramento have placed a greater importance on your work in Santa Cruz County. This past week, the first allocations for transportation congestion relief were made from the transportation bond the voters approved last November. Yesterday's allocations add more funds—and increase the amounts to be received by both Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.

Despite the additional state funds, it is clear that Santa Cruz County will have trouble meeting all transportation needs with state funds alone. It would take a transportation bond at least two or three times larger than the one passed in November to address outstanding transportation needs.

As a result, it is important to have the opportunity to match state funds with funds from a successful local county-wide transportation measure. In certain instances, the state gives additional credit for so-called "self-help counties"—those counties that vote for a half-cent sales tax to match state grants for transportation projects. The theory is that the state is willing to help those local areas that are willing to help themselves, providing counties with a greater ability to get projects done.

The only way there will be enough local support to pass such a measure in Santa Cruz County is if your work is successful. I know that for many of you, you have a clear view of what is right for the county's transportation future. However, if everyone sticks to their point of view without arriving at a broader agreement that provides the political basis for a successful local transportation measure, the cost would be having to address transportation challenges with greatly diminished resources on the table.

I urge you to continue to take your task seriously, and to work toward a resolution that positions a transportation ballot measure for success. I strongly support you in this effort and look forward to assisting you in the months ahead.

Thank you for giving your time to the Task Force process, and for caring about the transportation future we could have in Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,



JOHN LAIRD  
Assemblymember, 27<sup>th</sup> District

JL:bm

cc: Fred Keeley, TFTF Convener  
SCCRTC

<http://www.assembly.ca.gov/demweb/members/a27/>