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CITY OF LOMITA

April 17, 2025

The Honorable Ben Allen
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6610
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 220 (Allen) - Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.
Letter of OPPOSITION**

Dear Senator Allen,

On behalf of the City of Lomita, I am writing to respectfully oppose your bill, SB 220, as amended on April 9, 2025. SB 220 would, beginning on January 1, 2029, expand the Metro Board of Directors to 18 members (including one nonvoting gubernatorial appointee) by adding the newly created County Executive of the County of Los Angeles and three public members appointed by the County Executive. The bill further expands the Metro Board to include each member of the upcoming expanded Board of Supervisors starting in 2032¹. Therefore, the final proposed composition of the Board under SB 220 will eventually reach 22 members.

Current state law already provides a mechanism for considering changes to the composition of the Metro Board. The Legislative Counsel's digest for SB 220 cites the provision under California Public Utilities Code § 130051 (a), which states that "if the number of members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is increased, the authority shall, within 60 days of the increase, submit a plan to the Legislature for revising the composition of the authority." This provision in statute provides a process by which changes to the composition of the Metro Board of Directors should be made. The submission of a plan to the Legislature allows for a local, agency-led, orderly consideration of changes to the structure to the Board in anticipation of the increase in the number of County Supervisors after the 2032 election. SB 220 bypasses this statute, disregarding a process that ensures local control and orderly consideration.

SB 220 seeks to increase the influence that County government has on the Metro Board. As representatives of the City of Lomita, we oppose the dilution of sub-regional interests in transportation decision-making. Our voices should not be marginalized in favor of Countywide interests, and we contend that the current Metro Board process is better equipped to consider a broader diversity of perspectives, ranging from County Supervisors to local City Council members. Metro appreciates the importance of local voices in the planning and programming work it is tasked with doing. For example, in Measure M, there are subregional funding programs that ensure local transportation priorities have an opportunity to be implemented.

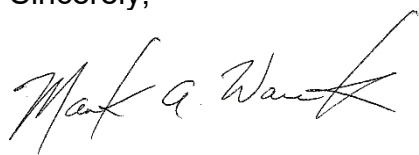
¹ Pursuant to County Measure G, approved recently by voters in 2024, the Board of Supervisors will be expanding to nine members in 2032.

Additionally, local jurisdictions are integral parts of the work Metro does. Metro capital projects run through cities and operate on local streets.

A similar bottom-up approach to determining the appropriate composition of the Metro Board is critical. Cities throughout the County can come together and work with Metro to develop a proposal for any changes to the Metro Board composition because of the passage of Measure G. The Legislature should not dictate the representation on this Board of Directors. Local voices understand the operations and procedures of the Metro Board and how it interfaces with the county and 88 cities. These local agencies must retain the role and responsibility of any changes to the Board that must fairly and equitably represent all of them.

For these reasons, the City of Lomita must oppose your bill, SB 220. Should you have any questions about our opposition, please do not hesitate to contact our City Manager, Andrew Vialpando at (310) 325-7110.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Waronek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark A. Waronek
Mayor
City of Lomita

cc. The Honorable Ben Allen
Lomita City Council
Jeff Kiernan, Cal Cities Regional Public Affairs Manager via email kiernan@calcities.org
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org