



Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: September 2, 2016

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: AB 1889 (Mullin): Caltrain Electrification Funding from High - Speed Rail Bond

Background

AB 1889 (Mullin) would ensure that \$800 million in state funding from the high-speed rail bond (Proposition 1A) is available to fund the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project (PCEP), i.e. Caltrain electrification. Specifically, AB 1889 clarifies and underscores the Legislature's intent to allow investment in projects that facilitate longer-term high-speed train operations and can be used by commuter/ intercity services in the near-term.

Caltrain has awarded vital contracts for the PCEP this summer and is relying on Proposition 1A funding to cover project costs.

Recommendation: Support

Discussion

As you know, in order to ensure that MTC can respond to legislation in a timely manner, Commission procedures allow us to communicate a position on legislation with the approval of the MTC Chair and the Legislation Committee Chair. In August, at the request of Caltrain, staff sought and obtained such approval for AB 1889 so that we could communicate our support to members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill now awaits the Governor's signature. To ratify staff's communication of support of AB 1889 on behalf of the Commission, staff recommends the Committee support AB 1889.

Known Positions:

Support

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board
(Caltrain)
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
San Mateo County Transit District
San Mateo County Transportation Authority

Oppose

The California Rail Foundation
The Community Coalition on High Speed Rail
Transportation Solution Defense and Education
Fund


Steve Heminger

SH: rl