

November 7, 2023

## Re: Community Health Center Comments on Richmond San Rafael Bridge

Dear Bay Area Toll Authority Oversight Committee:

On behalf of Aliados Health, I write to express support for opening a 3<sup>rd</sup> lane on the upper deck of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge to vehicles during commute hours. Aliados Health is a network of 16 non-profit community health centers with sites in Marin, Napa, Sonoma, Contra Costa, Solano, and Yolo counties. Formed in 1994, our mission is to strengthen the capacity of members to provide comprehensive, integrated care that improves health and health equity in their communities. They collectively provide patient-centered primary care health homes to 276,639 patients, including 164,498 Medi-Cal patients and over 65,443 uninsured individuals.

One of our member community health centers, Marin Community Clinics, employees approximately 160 employees who live in the East Bay commuting to Marin via the Richmond-San Rafael bridge. This amounts to a plurality of their employees coming from any one direction - about 29% of their workforce - and does not include contractors. The additional time it takes to cross the bridge during commute hours has a real impact on those employees' lives. This in turn has a real effect on health center's ability to attract and retain a diverse workforce, and to ensure continued access to care for patients.

While we understand the need for additional bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the region, and stand ready to support such improvements, we respectfully request you install a 3<sup>rd</sup> lane of traffic during commuting hours.

Sincerely,

Alvaro Fuentes (Nov 7, 2023 16:44 PST)

Alvaro Fuentes Chief Executive Officer

## Aliados Health - Richmond-San Rafael Bridge

Final Audit Report 2023-11-08

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