



METROLINK

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY

900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1500 Los Angeles, CA 90017

metrolinktrains.com

May 15, 2020

Mayor James Butts
Chair, Board of Directors
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Staff Recommendation on CARES Act Allocation of \$1.068 Billion

Dear Chair Butts,

On behalf of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), I am pleased to submit a letter in SUPPORT of the staff recommendation regarding the CARES Act Allocation of \$1.068 Billion. I want to commend Metro staff for providing an opportunity to review their methodology and consider input from SCRRA and the municipal operators.

This public health emergency is unprecedented and has significantly impacted all LA County transit operators. Beginning March 26th, SCRRA temporarily reduced weekday train service by approximately 30% until further notice. This proactive measure was in response to significantly lower ridership, and an effort to help minimize health risks to the operating crews and riders while still providing a critical public service for essential workers. At the time of implementation of the service reduction, ridership had fallen by 80%. Today, it appears to be at a steady state of 90% decline when compared to ridership from a year ago. (A recent SCRRA customer survey revealed that 71% of current riders describe themselves as essential workers, with 39% working in the healthcare industry. And 32% of essential workers are riding Metrolink because they do not have access to a car.)

SCRRA is also experiencing a corresponding 90% decline in fare revenue. We have undertaken cost containment/cost savings measures including a travel freeze and a hiring freeze of non-mission critical positions. In addition, in response to a review of all discretionary spending, my executive team has identified over \$8 million in savings or deferrals for this fiscal year. Despite these efforts, we have less than five months operating cash-flow, so I also respectfully request action by the Board at your May meeting.

While SCRRA operates in six counties, 80% of SCRRA riders work in LA County and 66% of our employees live in LA County. Approval of the staff recommendation will cover the LA County share of fare revenue loss for FY20 and FY21 as well as the share of costs incurred for additional PPE and enhanced cleanliness of our system to protect the health and safety of our employees and riders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephanie N. Wiggins
Chief Executive Officer