



June 10, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: One-Year Extension Request – SB 743 Implementation

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization representing six counties, 191 cities, and 19 million residents, **I would like to submit this letter respectfully requesting a one-year extension to the implementation of a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) metric under Senate Bill (SB) 743.**

Signed in 2013, SB 743 alters the way in which transportation impacts are identified under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Through implementation of a VMT-based CEQA transportation impact analysis process, SB 743 changes the focus of analysis from motor vehicle delay to greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction for development projects.

SCAG supports the change to a VMT metric required by SB 743. Specifically, the change supports Connect SoCal, SCAG’s 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, which balances our mobility needs with the achievement of identified GHG reduction goals. SB 743 reinforces the regional mobility, accessibility, public health, and GHG reduction goals presented in Connect SoCal through its focus on the facilitation of centralized, infill development; encouragement of mixed-use, transit accessible communities; and improvement of active transportation infrastructure.

SCAG has consistently coordinated with stakeholders over many years as the revised CEQA guidelines were being developed. Throughout this process, SCAG has worked to ensure the meaningful involvement of our local jurisdictions through the provision of multiple workshops, solicitation of stakeholder feedback, and presentations to various technical and policy committees. SCAG hosted a total of eight (8) SB 743 stakeholder workshops on the following dates: October 28, 2014; July 28, 2015; October 12, 2016; November 14, 2016; April 3, 2017; January 31, 2018 (Caltrans); June 14, 2018; and March 1, 2019. Equally important, SCAG has supported local jurisdictions through our Sustainability Grant Program. The grant program is currently funding three projects with a unifying focus of providing an SB 743 implementation template for potential replication in other areas throughout the SCAG region.

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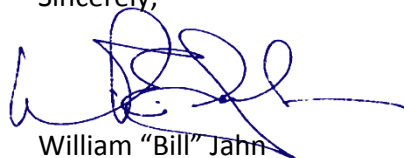
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SCAG is committed to the successful implementation of SB 743 throughout our region, and these initial outreach efforts and projects are indicative of SCAG's regional leadership role in this effort. **Given that the implementation date of SB 743 comes at a time when California is facing a housing shortage and significant economic uncertainty, SCAG respectfully requests one final extension to the implementation of the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) metric under SB 743.**

Thank you for your leadership during these unprecedented times. SCAG appreciates the dialogue you have always afforded with our region. If we can provide any additional information or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Gilhooley, Legislation Manager, at (213) 236-1878.

Sincerely,



William "Bill" Jahn
Immediate Past President, SCAG
Council Member, City of Big Bear Lake