

To: Board of Directors

Date: February 9, 2018

From: Rick Ramacier
General Manager

Reviewed by:

SUBJECT: State Legislative Status & Plan for Delegation Visits

Background

Last month, staff reported to the Board that this is likely to be an active year in the California State Legislature with respect to public transit. Bills have begun to be introduced for consideration and we are going to see a challenge to last year's Senate Bill 1 (SB1).

Between now and late April, there will be a fair amount of activity on proposed legislation. Thus, the time would be appropriate for County Connection to communicate related interests and concerns. Also, between now and July, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is likely going to act on a CARB staff proposal that could include a Zero Emission Based (ZEB) bus procurement mandate.

Staff – in part based on previous board comments – believes the time is right over the next few months to make a series of visits with our state legislative delegation on items of interest and concern.

Issues to Address

Staff proposes that visits would focus on the following issues/areas:

- Defending SB1 from voter repeal. County Connection could have up to \$3 million annually at stake should SB1 be repealed.
- Expressing our growing interest in implementing Bus on Shoulder (BOS) service. This would include providing information on how these services have been effectively and safely operated in other parts of the country for years.
- Continuing to educate our delegation on the need to change the state disadvantaged communities definitions that hinder our ability to use as much as \$800,000 in annual cap and trade Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funds.
- Inform our delegation of the potential of CARB to adopt a concerning ZEB procurement mandate. Further inform them of alternatives that the transit industry as a whole have offered to essentially reach the same air quality goals in a more rational manner.
- To brief them on how technology is offering the potential for improved public transportation services.
- Other items as determined.

Visit Schedule

Staff wishes to work with interested board members on setting dates to meet with various delegation offices.