



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

Agenda Item 2e

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: April 5, 2013

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: AB 210 (Wieckowski): Alameda County Sales Tax: Extension of Option to Exceed Cap

Background

AB 210 would extend the authority of Alameda County, and would newly authorize Contra Costa County, to impose a sales tax for countywide transportation programs up to 0.5 percent that could bring the total local sales tax rate above 2 percent in certain jurisdictions within the county until December 31, 2020, conditioned upon voter approval.

Recommendation: Support

Discussion

This bill is sponsored by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC). In 2011, AB 1086 (Wieckowski), which MTC supported, authorized Alameda County to place on the ballot a new sales tax up to 0.5 percent that would bring the county's local sales taxes above the 2 percent cap, as a result of a 0.5 percent sales tax approved in Union City. Unfortunately, the authority granted in that bill sunsets in 2014. AB 210 provides ACTC with significantly more flexibility, allowing them to resubmit their measure to the voters at some point in the next seven years.

Contra Costa Transportation Authority is also supporting AB 210 as a way to potentially boost funding for its transportation expenditure plan, scheduled for an update in 2014. With the Town of Moraga passing a 1 percent local sales tax in November 2012, Contra Costa County also needs an exception to the 2 percent cap if it wants to ask the voters for an additional 0.5 percent sales tax for transportation. Considering the significant funding shortfalls facing transportation and the lack of political support for raising new revenue at the state or federal levels, staff recommends that the Commission support AB 210.

Known Positions

Support

Alameda County Transportation Commission (sponsor)
Contra Costa County Transportation Authority

Oppose

California Taxpayer Association



Steve Heminger