

May 4, 2026



US REGULAR MAIL AND PERSONAL COURIER

The Honorable Jesse Arreguin
California State Senate, District 7
State Capitol
1021 O Street, Suite 7520
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for Senate Bill 1408 – Contra Costa County Transportation Authority:
Transactions and Use Tax Authority**

Dear Senator Arreguin:

On behalf of the City of San Pablo, I am writing to express the City's support for Senate Bill 1408, which would provide the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) with the statutory authority necessary to continue meeting the county's long-term transportation infrastructure needs.

CCTA, established by Contra Costa County voters in 1988, manages Contra Costa County's transportation sales tax program and oversees County-wide transportation planning. CCTA administers a multibillion-dollar portfolio of projects and programs, including major improvements on state highways, local streets, transit systems, and mobility initiatives. While some projects are delivered directly by CCTA, many others are implemented by cities, the County, and transit districts using CCTA-allocated funds. Additionally, San Pablo is directly represented on the CCTA Board of Directors through Vice Mayor Rita Xavier, who is currently serving a two-year term from January 24, 2025 through January 31, 2027.

Under existing law, CCTA may impose a transactions and use tax of up to 1% to fund local transportation improvements. The Authority currently levies a 0.5% tax—first approved as Measure C in 1988 and renewed as Measure J in 2004—which is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2034. While CCTA may seek voter approval to extend the tax at its current rate, any increase above the existing 2% combined district tax cap requires a statutory exemption.

SB 1408 would allow CCTA, subject to voter approval, to impose or extend a district tax of up to 1% even if doing so exceeds the 2% cap. This authority is essential to ensuring that Contra Costa County can maintain and modernize its transportation network beyond the expiration

of Measure J. Without this flexibility, CCTA may be unable to secure the revenue needed to sustain current service levels or advance future projects addressing congestion, safety, climate resilience, and regional mobility. SB 1408 preserves local control by requiring CCTA to adopt an ordinance, submit the measure to voters, and comply with all applicable Constitutional voter-approval thresholds. The bill also includes a sunset provision repealing the exemption on January 1, 2045.

For these reasons, the City of San Pablo supports SB 1408 and respectfully urges its passage.

Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation and for your continued commitment to strengthening transportation infrastructure throughout Contra Costa County.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado, Mayor
City of San Pablo

cc: CCTA Chair and Board of Directors
CCTA Executive Director

San Pablo City Council
City Manager
City Attorney