



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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## FACT SHEET

### OPPOSE SB 268 (MENDOZA) AS AMENDED MAY 1, 2017

SB 268 (Mendoza) was recently amended to include language that seeks to restructure the Metro Board of Directors. This is the fourth attempt by Senator Mendoza to restructure the Metro Board of Directors. As with all the other previous attempts this bill was not developed through an inclusive bottom-up process, is based on faulty assumptions, and only creates winners and losers.

#### ISSUES

- Mandating a Board structure without a local consensus, is never productive and will not further the agency's work of improving mobility for the 10 million residents of Los Angeles County.
- The bill side-steps a local process to develop a Board governance structure that supports a countywide Long Range Transportation Plan that has a consensus, there is not a strong case that this proposal will maintain that consensus and achieve any greater balance.
- Current law already allows for one of the City of Los Angeles seats to be transferred to a corridor city should the population of the county change to ensure equilibrium and fair representation.
- Los Angeles County voters approved Measure M by over 71%: an overwhelming majority.
- This overwhelming approval was the result of an extensive, bottom-up process to develop the measure.

#### THE FACTS

- SB 268 is predicated on the proposition that the supervisors only represent the unincorporated population of the county, rather than the broad interests of the 2 million people in each of their districts. When Metro was organized, we chose for good reason to include all 5 supervisors, and the system has worked well for over 20 years.
- The LA County Board of Supervisors represents 100 percent of Los Angeles County's population, which includes 88 cities and unincorporated areas.
- Under the current version of SB 268 large portions of the County could be left with no representation on the Metro Board of Directors.
- Furthermore, by arbitrarily allocating seats amongst the Board of Supervisors there could be citizens who live in the unincorporated areas that would, also, not be represented on the Board.

#### MORE CHANGES TO THE BOARD WITH NO BASIS

The proposal would also add the County Auditor as a member, which is unprecedented, unnecessary and duplicative because Metro is subject to multiple audit requirements including the following:

- Annual independent audits.
- Independent audits of sales tax expenditures.
- Regular audits by the federal government.

Metro urges that this legislation be held until local stakeholders can engage in a more appropriate process to resolve any issues with board governance. Please feel free to contact Michael Turner at (213) 922-2122 or [turnerm@metro.net](mailto:turnerm@metro.net) should you have any questions.