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| **Update on PEPRA/13(C)**  Yesterday afternoon, I spoke with Governor Brown regarding the potential suspension of federal funds due to the transit unions’ objections to California’s pension reform law. We spoke at length about the issue and I outlined to him the potential impacts to our capital and operating grants and highlighted the risk to our Full Funding Grant Agreements (FFGAs) for the Regional Connector and Westside Subway Extension projects. I also highlighted the critical time issues at stake including the remaining weeks of the State Legislative Session. The State Assembly reconvenes on Monday, August 5, 2013 and the State Senate reconvenes on August 12, 2013. The legislative session is scheduled to conclude on September 13, 2013. That will be the last date to pass legislation that could resolve this issue before it seriously impacts our transit capital projects. If there is not a solution in the legislature by that time - there will be no opportunity for a state legislative solution until next year. We are currently scheduled to conclude the FFGA for the Regional Connector in November and the FFGA for the Westside Subway in February of 2014. The Federal Transit Administration cannot sign the FFGAs if this issue is not resolved by the time these agreements are before them.  The Governor indicated that there are ongoing discussions regarding this issue. Our advocacy teams in Washington and Sacramento are fully engaged on this issue. Metro Government Relations staff will be in Sacramento this week, continuing to advocate for a timely solution. |
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