

CEO Burke Asks Gov. Davis for 'Cooling Off' Period to Prevent Strike

(June 22) CEO Julian Burke has asked Governor Gray Davis to invoke a "cooling off" period to prevent a strike by the United Transportation Union, the largest of the MTA's unions.

The labor agreement between the MTA and the UTU expires at midnight, June 30. In a vote, June 19, UTU members gave their leadership authority to call a strike. No strike date has been set.

In a letter dated Wednesday, Burke said a work stoppage "would significantly disrupt public transportation services...." He said a strike would cause traffic congestion, add tons of emissions to the air and cost the county's economy "as much as \$16 million per day."

Calls for independent board

The CEO asked the governor to appoint an independent board, effective June 30, to "investigate the issues involved in the labor dispute...."

"With your leadership and an independent board of investigation," he wrote, "we are hopeful that a paralyzing and costly transit strike can be avoided."

Click here for the [full text of Burke's letter](#) to Governor Davis.

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