



MTA LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

August 29, 1997

TO: MTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: GISSELLE ACEVEDO-FRANCO

- AB 584 (Villaraigosa), the bill that provides for a four-year term of office for the MTA Inspector General position and codifies the MTA Code of Conduct, was amended August 28, on the Senate floor. The amendments to the bill provide for the deletion of all references to alternates relating to the MTA Board composition (a drafting error) and in the Code of Conduct. The amendments also include a provision stating that the MTA CEO approves all construction contracts based upon "responsive and responsible" bids. One additional amendment reconciles the campaign contribution amounts noted in the Code of Conduct with the \$10 limit provided in SB 89 (Hayden), if SB 89 is signed into law by the Governor. In other words, the \$10 limit in SB 89 would take precedent. The MTA has an official support position on SB 89, which is pending on the Assembly floor. AB 584 can be passed by the Senate early next week.
- SB 45 (Kopp), the bill that provides for a four-year, rather than a seven-year, STIP was amended in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations. The amendments provide that the initial STIP under the new time period will be for six years as a transition for ongoing projects and programs. The bill may be considered with other "suspense" bills next week. Bills on the "suspense calendar" have a financial impact to the state of greater than \$150,000.
- On a related note, the 1998 Proposed STIP Fund Estimate was released by Caltrans earlier this week. This estimate is based upon the current seven-year STIP. To the surprise of many in the transportation community, the final estimate projects up to \$4.9 billion in unprogrammed dollars, a significant increase over previous expectations. Both MTA Capital Planning and Government Relations have copies of the Caltrans document.

If you have any questions on these issues, please feel free to contact Claudette Moody at (213) 922-2237.