

# Metro Board Approved Policy

1980 Prop A - Ordinance Establishing a Retail Tax

*Adopted: November 1980*

## Historical Perspective

The Proposition A tax measure was approved in 1980 and the Proposition C tax measure was approved in 1990. Collection of taxes began on July 1, 1982, and April 1, 1991 respectively.

Proposition A and Proposition C Local Return Guidelines were periodically reviewed and re-adopted to reflect current Metro practices and policies, and to provide clearer and more consistent communications to Local Return Program recipients regarding project eligibility and administrative policies."

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
**METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

**Title 3**

**Finance**

**Chapter 3-05**

**An Ordinance Establishing A Retail Transactions  
And Use Tax in the County of Los Angeles  
For Public Transit Purposes**

*(Preliminary Note: The ordinance set forth in Chapter 3-05 was originally enacted as Los Angeles County Transportation Commission Ordinance No. 16 and was adopted by a vote of the electorate as Proposition A in November 1980. It is incorporated here as enacted in 1980, except that, for convenience and consistency, its section headings and numbering have been revised to conform to the style of this Code. While the provisions of this ordinance may be cited by the section headings and numbering used herein, the official ordinance remains that enacted by the electorate in 1980. The inclusion of this ordinance in this Code is not a reenactment or an amendment of the original ordinance, and its inclusion in this Code does not in any way amend its provisions or alter its application.)*

A retail Transactions and Use Tax is hereby imposed in the County of Los Angeles as follows:

**3-05-010 Definitions.** The following words, whenever used in this Ordinance, shall have the meanings set forth below:

- A. "Commission" means the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission.
- B. "County" means the incorporated and unincorporated territory of the County of Los Angeles.
- C. "Transaction" or "Transactions" have the same meaning, respectively, as the words "Sale" or "Sales"; and the word "Transactor" has the same meaning as "Seller", as "Sale" or "Sales" and "Seller" are used in Part 1 (commencing with Section 6001) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

**3-05-020 Imposition of Retail Transactions Tax.** There is hereby imposed a tax for the

privilege of selling tangible personal property at retail upon every retailer in the County at a rate of one-half of 1% of the gross receipts of the retailer from the sale of all tangible personal property sold by him at retail in the County.

**3-05-030      Imposition of Use Tax.** There is hereby imposed a complementary tax upon the storage, use or other consumption in the County of tangible personal property purchased from any retailer for storage, use or other consumption in the County. Such tax shall be at a rate of one-half of 1% of the sales price of the property whose storage, use or other consumption is subject to the tax.

**3-05-040      Application of Sales and Use Tax Provisions of Revenue and Taxation Code.**

A.      The provisions contained in Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation code (Sales and Use Taxes, commencing with Section 6001), insofar as they relate to sales or use taxes and are not inconsistent with Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and taxation Code (transactions and Use Taxes, commencing with Section 7251), shall apply and be part of this Ordinance, being incorporated by reference herein, except that:

1.      The commission, as the taxing agency, shall be substituted for that of the State;
2.      An additional transactor's permit shall not be required if a seller's permit has been or is issued to the transactor under Section 6067 of the Revenue and Taxation Code; and
3.      The word "County" shall be substituted for the word "State" in the phrase, "Retailer engaged in business in this State" in Section 6203 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and in the definition of that phrase.

B.      A retailer engaged in business in the County shall not be required to collect use tax from the purchase of tangible personal property unless the retailer ships or delivers the property into the County or participates within the County in making the sale of the property, including, but not limited to soliciting or receiving the order, either directly or indirectly, at a place of business of the retailer in the County or through any representative, agent, canvasser, solicitor, or subsidiary or person

in the County under authority of the retailer.

C. All amendments subsequent to January 1, 1970, to the above cited Sales and Use Taxes provisions relating to sales or use taxes and not consistent with this Ordinance shall automatically become a part of this Ordinance; provided, however, that no such amendment shall operate as to affect the rate of tax imposed by the Commission.

**3-05-050 Use of Revenues Received from Imposition of the Transactions and Use Tax.**

The revenues received by the Commission from the imposition of the transactions and use tax shall be used for public transit purposes, as follows:

A. Definitions:

1. "System" or "Rail rapid transit system" means all land and other improvements and equipment necessary to provide an operable, exclusive right-of-way, or guideway, for rail transit.

2. "Local transit" means eligible transit, paratransit, and Transportation Systems Management improvements which benefit one jurisdiction.

B. Purpose of Tax. This tax is being imposed to improve and expand existing public transit Countywide, including reduction of transit fares, to construct and operate a rail rapid transit system hereinafter described, and to more effectively use State and Federal funds, benefit assessments, and fares.

C. Use of Revenues. Revenues will be allocated as follows:

1. For the first three (3) years from the operative date of this Ordinance:

a. Twenty-five (25) percent, calculated on an annual basis, to local jurisdictions for local transit, based on their relative percentage share of the population of the County of Los Angeles.

b. To the Southern California Rapid Transit District ("District"), or any other existing or successor entity in the District receiving funds under the Mills-Alquist-Deddeh Act, such sums as are necessary to accomplish the following

purposes;

- (1) Establishment of a basic cash fare of fifty (50) cents.
- (2) Establishment of an unlimited use transfer charge of ten (10) cents.
- (3) Establishment of a charge for a basic monthly transit pass of \$20.00.
- (4) Establishment of a charge for a monthly transit pass for the elderly, handicapped and students of \$4.00.
- (5) Establishment of a basic cash fare for the elderly, handicapped and students of twenty (20) cents.
- (6) Establishment of a comparable fare structure for express or premium bus service.

c. The remainder to the Commission for construction and operation of the System.

2. Thereafter:

a. Twenty-five (25) percent, calculated on an annual basis, to local jurisdictions for local transit, based on their relative percentage share of the population of the County of Los Angeles.

b. Thirty-five (35) percent, calculated on an annual basis, to the commission for construction and operation of the System.

c. The remainder shall be allocated to the Commission for public transit purposes.

3. Scope of Use. Revenues can be used for capital or operating expenses.

D. Commission Policy.

1. Relative to the Local Transit Component:

a. Allocation of funds to local jurisdictions shall be subject to the

following conditions:

(1) Submission to the Commission of a description of intended use of the funds, in order to establish legal eligibility. Such use shall not duplicate or compete with existing transit service.

(2) The Commission may impose regulations to ensure the timely use of local transit funds.

(3) Recipients shall account annually to the Commission on the use of such funds.

b. Local jurisdictions are encouraged to use available funds for improved transit service.

2. Relative to the System Component:

a. The Commission will determine the System to be constructed and operated.

b. The System will be constructed as expeditiously as possible. In carrying out this policy, the Commission shall use the following guidelines:

(1) Emphasis shall be placed on the use of funds for construction of the System.

(2) Use of existing rights-of-way will be emphasized.

c. The System will be constructed and operated in substantial conformity with the map attached hereto as Exhibit "A". The areas proposed to be served are, at least, the following:

San Fernando Valley

West Los Angeles

South Central Los Angeles/Long Beach

South Bay/Harbor

Century Freeway Corridor

Santa Ana Free Corridor

San Gabriel Valley

**3-05-060 Exclusion of Tax Imposed Under Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law.** The amount subject to tax under this Ordinance shall not include the amount of any sales tax or use tax imposed by the State of California or by any city, city and county, or county, pursuant to the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law, or the amount of any State-administered transactions or use tax.

**3-05-050 Exemption from Retail Transactions Tax.**

A. There are exempted from the tax imposed by this Ordinance the gross receipts from the sale of tangible personal property to operators of waterborne vessels to be used or consumed principally outside the County in which the sale is made and directly and exclusively in the carriage or persons or property in such vessels for commercial purposes.

B. There are exempted from the tax imposed under this Ordinance the gross receipts from the sale of tangible personal property to the operators of aircraft to be used or consumed principally outside the County in which the sale is made, and directly and exclusively in the use of such aircraft as common carriers of persons or property under the authority of the laws of this State, the United States, or any foreign government.

C. Sales of property to be used outside the County which are shipped to a point outside the County pursuant to the contract of sale, by delivery to such point by the retailer or his agent, or by delivery by the retailer to a carrier for shipment to a consignee at such point, are exempt from the tax imposed under this Ordinance.

D. For purposes of this Section, "delivery" of vehicles subject to registration pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 4000) of Division 3 of the Vehicle code, the aircraft license in compliance with Section 21411 of the Public Utilities Code and undocumented vessels registered under Article 2 (commencing with Section 680) of Chapter 5 of Division 3 of the Harbors and Navigation code shall be satisfied by registration to an out-of-County address

and by a declaration under penalty of perjury, signed by the buyer, stating that such address is, in fact, his principal place of residence.

E. "Delivery" of commercial vehicle shall be satisfied by registration to a place of business out of County, and a declaration under penalty of perjury signed by the buyer that the vehicle will be operated from that address.

F. The sale of tangible personal property is exempt from tax, if the seller is obligated to furnish the property for a fixed price pursuant to a contract entered into prior to the operative date of this Ordinance. A lease of tangible personal property which is a continuing sale of such property is exempt from tax for any period of time for which the lessor is obligated to lease the property for an amount fixed by the lease prior to the operative date of this Ordinance. For purposes of this Section, the sale or lease of tangible personal property shall be deemed not to be obligated pursuant to a contract or lease for any period of time for which any party to the contract or lease has the unconditional right to terminate the contract or lease upon notice, whether or not such right is exercised.

**3-05-070 Exemptions from Use Tax.**

A. The storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property, the gross receipts from the sale of which have been subject to a transaction tax under any State administered transactions and use taxes ordinances, shall be exempt from the tax imposed under this Ordinance.

B. The storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property purchased by operators of waterborne vessels and used or consumed by such operators directly and exclusively in the carriage of persons or property in such vessels for commercial taxes is exempt from the use tax.

C. In addition to the exemption provided in Section 6366 and 6366.1 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, the storage, use, or other consumption of tangible personal property purchased by operators of aircraft and used or consumed by such operators directly and



exclusively in the use of such aircraft as common carriers of persons or property for hire or compensation under a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued pursuant to the laws of this State, United States, or any foreign government, is exempt from the use tax.

D. The storage, use, or other consumption in the County of tangible personal property is exempt from the use tax imposed under this Ordinance if purchaser is obligated to purchase the property for a fixed price pursuant to a contract entered into prior to the operative date of the Ordinance. The possession of, or the exercise of any right or power over, tangible personal property under a lease which is a continuing purchase of such property is exempt from tax for any period of time for which a lessee is obligated to lease the property for an amount fixed by a lease prior to the operative date of this Ordinance. For the purposes of this Section, storage, use or other consumption, or possession, or exercise of any right or power over, tangible personal property shall be deemed not to be obligated pursuant to a contract or lease for any period of time for which any party to the contract or lease has the unconditional right to terminate the contract or lease upon notice, whether or not such right is exercised.

**3-05-080 Place of Consummation of Retail Transaction.** For the purpose of a retail transaction tax imposed by this Ordinance, all retail transactions are consummated at the place of business of the retailer, unless the tangible personal property sold is delivered by the retailer or his agent to an out-of-State destination or to a common carrier for delivery to an out-of-State destination. The gross receipts from such sales shall include delivery charges, when such charges are subject to the State sales and use tax, regardless of the place to which delivery is made. In the event a retailer has no permanent place of business in the State, or has more than one place of business, the place or places at which the retail sales are consummated for the purpose of the transactions tax imposed by this Ordinance shall be determined under rules and regulations to be prescribed and adopted by the State Board of Equalization.

**3-05-100 Deduction of Local Transactions Taxes on Sales of Motor Fuel.**

A. The Controller shall deduct local transactions taxes on sales of motor vehicle fuel

September 25, 1998

**DIRECTOR SPECIAL ITEM**

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY**

The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk has certified the sufficiency of valid signatures on the initiative petition entitled "The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Reform and Accountability Act of 1998."

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is required by law to call a special election to submit the act to the voters at the next statewide election.

THEREFORE, I move that the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority adopt the attached resolution calling the special election and requesting consolidation with the November 3, 1998, statewide election.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK**  
12400 IMPERIAL HWY. - P.O. BOX 1024, NORWALK, CALIFORNIA 90651-1024 / (562) 462-2716

**CONNY B. McCORMACK**  
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

June 22, 1998

Board of Directors  
Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
1 Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Georgia Hamilton, Board Secretary

**Re: Certificate To Initiative Petition**

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

Enclosed please find the certificate issued by this Office to the governing board of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority ("MTA"), pursuant to Elections Code section 9309, which shows the results of our examination of signatures on the initiative petition entitled "The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Reform and Accountability Act of 1998." Our examination shows that the number of valid signatures on the petition is sufficient.

Pursuant to Elections Code sections 9310 and 9311, the MTA must either pass the proposed ordinance at the meeting at which this certificate is presented (or within ten (10) days thereof), or submit the ordinance to the voters at the next statewide general election in November. (By the terms of the ordinance, its passage by the MTA would also require that it be submitted to the voters at that election.)

To consolidate the MTA election on the County ballot in November, a resolution of the MTA requesting the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to approve the consolidation is necessary (Elections Code section 10403). The resolution must be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors no later than August 7, 1998.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Conny B. McCormack".

**CONNY B. McCORMACK**  
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

c: Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County Supervisor  
Proponent

## CERTIFICATE TO INITIATIVE PETITION

I, CONNY B. McCORMACK, REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, hereby certify:

That the "METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (MTA) REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1998". petition was filed with this office on June 12, 1998;

That said petition consists of 39,139 sections containing 169,292 signatures;

That each section contains signatures purporting to be the signatures of qualified electors of this county;

That attached to this petition at the time it was filed was an affidavit purporting to be the affidavit of the person who solicited the signatures, and containing the dates between which the purported qualified electors signed this petition;

That the affiant stated his or her own qualifications, that he or she had solicited the signatures upon that section, that all of the signatures were made in his or her presence, and that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief each signature to that section was the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be;

That after the proponent filed this petition I verified the required number of signatures by examining the records of the registration in this county, current and in effect at the respective purported dates of such signing, to determine what number of qualified electors signed the petition, and from that examination I have determined the following facts regarding this petition:

1. Number of unverified signatures filed by proponent	169,292
2. Number of signatures verified (3%)	5,079
a. Number of signatures found SUFFICIENT	3,854
b. Number of signatures found NOT SUFFICIENT	1,225
1. NOT SUFFICIENT because DUPLICATE	8

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 22nd day of June 1998.



CONNIE B. McCORMACK  
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk  
County of Los Angeles