

Motion by Director O'Connor

Item #46

In keeping with the intent of the mission for this committee to foster the acceleration and delivery of transit projects described in Measure R, it is also important that we keep in mind the relationship these projects have with the legislative intent contained in AB32 and SB375 and the role that transportation will have in the effort to reduce green house gasses.

SB 375 envisions the reduction of green house gasses through strategies achieved through land use and transportation planning. Contained in SB 375 are provisions for streamlining the CEQA process for residential development projects. Unfortunately, that same provision was not accorded to transportation projects, as well.

In his SB 375 signing statement, Governor Schwarzenegger addressed this specific issue when he stated *“ I believe the failure to extend those same incentives to all projects related to transportation, infrastructure, services and employment that are consistent with the regional plan fundamentally undermines the programmatic approach to land-use planning this bill hopes to achieve. The author has committed to address some of these issues in clean-up legislation as needed.”*

If we, as an agency, are to succeed with an aggressive Measure R implementation program, we will need additional tools, such as an SB 375 Ceqa-streamlining provision can provide in order to effectively environmentally clear projects in a timely fashion.

I therefore MOVE that this Committee place on the February MTA Board Agenda the recommendation that the MTA Board vigorously support a technical corrections Bill to SB 375 and these efforts be placed at the top of MTA state legislative priorities and that we further instruct our legislative staff to work closely with Senator Steinberg in this effort.

