



## Ventura County Transportation Commission

January 9, 2017

The Honorable Jim Frazier  
Chair, Transportation Committee  
California State Assembly  
1020 N Street, Room 112  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT FOR AB 28**

Dear Chairman Frazier:

I am writing to inform you that the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) supports AB 28, your bill to extend the waiver of sovereign immunity required for federal delegation to Caltrans of responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This delegation of NEPA approval authority originally began in 2007, and the waiver of immunity originally extended until 2009, was later extended to 2012, and then to 2016.

The NEPA delegation to Caltrans has been found, over nearly 10 years of experience, to significantly reduce the processing time for NEPA approvals without reducing environmental protections. For example, Caltrans has found that the average time required for preparing and approving a NEPA Environmental Impact Statement document has been reduced by almost one year. VCTC supported the original NEPA delegation, and believes that the time has come for this arrangement to become permanent. Therefore, the Commission at its meeting January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting voted unanimously to support SB 28, which will provide the required waiver of sovereign immunity for Caltrans environmental approvals under NEPA.

Should you have any questions regarding VCTC's position do not hesitate to call me at (805) 642-1591.

Sincerely,

Darren M. Kettle  
Executive Director