



February 9, 2016

Board of Directors
Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)
55-B Plaza Circle
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear TAMC Board Member:

The Salinas Taxpayers Association hosted a forum on January 25, 2016 on the $\frac{3}{8}$ percent transportation sales tax proposed by the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC). Your executive director Debbie Hale was the speaker, and we had a production session of discussion, questions, and answers.

The Salinas Taxpayers Association board of directors will soon consider a position on the $\frac{3}{8}$ percent transportation sales tax. In the meantime, we are requesting the TAMC board to include a few provisions in its resolution to put the tax on the ballot. Our representative Kevin Dayton read our requests to you at your January 27, 2016 meeting. We reiterate our requests here in writing.

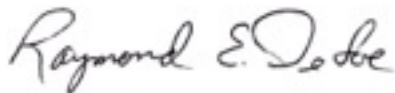
1. TAMC shall include a provision about citizens oversight that indicates specifically that a taxpayers association from the Salinas Valley and a taxpayers association from the Monterey Peninsula/coastal area shall have representatives on an oversight committee. We ask for this specific language because recently in Monterey County a tax oversight committee was created that did not include any representatives of a taxpayer association.
2. TAMC shall specifically inform voters in the ballot language whether or not this sales tax revenue could be used for passenger rail connectivity projects to Gilroy, including to a planned California High-Speed Rail station. We anticipate that the TAMC board may be pressured years in the future to divert some of the $\frac{3}{8}$ percent sales tax revenue to this project. Voters should know now whether or not TAMC can eventually use sales tax revenue for this purpose.
3. TAMC shall indicate in its ballot language how much money will be designated to bicycle projects and its reasoning behind the planned expenditures. It is unclear to us right now

exactly what percentage of the planned \$600 million in tax revenue will go to bicycle projects. This should be clarified for voters. We understand that some activists on the Monterey Peninsula insist on significant funding for bicycle projects, but we hear from Salinas residents who believe existing bicycle projects are ill-conceived and underutilized. “Build bike lanes at the expenses of filling potholes” is a principle that the Salinas Taxpayers Association will not support.

4. TAMC should indicate in its ballot language what expenditures are meant to partially or completely fulfill state mandates, for example, the mandates in Senate Bill 375 (2008). We understand this sales tax will come from Monterey County business transactions to benefit Monterey County residents, but Monterey County residents should be aware that they do not have full control over the destiny of that money.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns. Salinas residents are keenly aware of deteriorating highways, roads, and streets. They are willing to support a well-reasoned, responsible proposal to fill the potholes and improve transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond E. DeLoe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ray DeLoe
President
Salinas Taxpayers Association