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**SONOMA GROUP**

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April 13, 2020

Susan Gorin, Chair,  
Sonoma County Transportation Authority  
411 King Street  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

VIA EMAIL

Re: Renewal of the 1/4-cent Transportation Sales Tax

Dear Chair Gorin and Other Esteemed Members of the Board of Directors:

Like you, over the past year we and other members of the environmental justice community have invested countless hours toward the goal of crafting a renewal of the 1/4-percent transportation sales tax measure. You may recall that the Sierra Club outlined its initial recommendations in a letter of February 10, 2020 (attached).

We support the decision to limit the tax renewal to 20 years, and we welcome the updated Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) goals compiled by Staff and approved by the Board at the meeting on March 9th: “to improve safety, equity, and quality of life” and your vision of “Connecting people and places as we transition our transportation network to zero-emissions by 2050.”

However, the Expenditure Plan for the “Go Sonoma Act” as included in the agenda packet remains too vague to assure that the tax would achieve these important goals. We do not see adequate criteria for the tax expenditures to fund the “project categories that have the greatest environmental and fiscal benefits.” The allocation of funds must be more specific than to “Move traffic and improve safety” because a 20-year tax measure is likely to be implemented by people who are unknown to today’s residents and voters.

As you may know, the Sierra Club has recently made a Declaration of a Climate Emergency that holds its members to a rather high standard, and could well lead to the Club’s opposition to the current version of the measure. We do look forward to the development of a Comprehensive Transportation Plan that effectively addresses these issues. It may be best for the tax measure to follow after this planning process is completed.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Cordially,

*Sierra Club, Sonoma Group Executive Committee*

*Richard Sachen (Chair), Tom Conlon, Suzanne Doyle, Shirley Johnson, and Theresa Ryan*

*cc: SCTA Directors*

*Suzanne Smith, Executive Director*