



January 27, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Continued Prioritization of Transit Workers for COVID-19 Vaccine

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the undersigned Bay Area public transportation operators, we would like to register our concerns with the state's decision to move away from a sector-based approach and adopt a new age-based distribution for the COVID-19 vaccine.

On Monday, your administration announced the state's new plan would transition to an age-based distribution of the vaccine following the prioritized vaccination of individuals age 65 and over, and workers in health care, emergency services, food and agriculture, and education. In doing so, the plan effectively eliminates the prioritization of public transit workers within Phase 1B – Tier 2.

For several weeks, our agencies have actively followed the state's evolving distribution methodology and provided feedback to the Department of Public Health's Drafting Guidelines Working Group and Community Vaccine Advisory Committee. Locally, we have engaged our county health departments to ensure transit, paratransit, and school transportation workers are prioritized for the vaccine along with other essential workers, and many of us are supporting efforts to accelerate the pace of vaccine administration while ensuring equitable distribution.

Throughout this pandemic, transit workers have provided a safe and reliable means of transportation for low-income individuals, persons with disabilities, seniors, communities of color, and essential workers. Much like health care professionals and the sectors within Phase 1B – Tier 1, transit workers provide an essential service, cannot work from home, and must interact with the public during their duties. Bay Area operators coordinated to develop the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan and continue to make every effort to protect the health and safety of our riders and employees.

In closing, we respectfully urge you to reconsider the age-based distribution plan in one of two ways: preserve the current sector-based distribution that includes transit workers under Phase 1B – Tier 2; or elevate transit workers to equal consideration in the new plan alongside individuals

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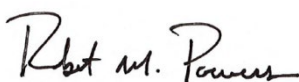
age 65 and over and workers in health care, emergency services, food and agriculture, and education. Prioritizing transit workers for vaccination will help ensure the state's recovery is aided by a healthy workforce ready to carry a growing number of individuals to vaccination sites, school, work, and other essential activities.

We recognize the very difficult decisions you are tasked to make as Governor and hope you will strongly consider our request.

Sincerely,



Michael Hursh,
General Manager
Alameda-Contra Costa Transit
District



Robert Powers,
General Manager
San Francisco Bay Area
Rapid Transit District
(BART)



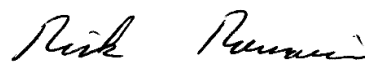
Jim Hartnett, General
Manager/Executive Director
San Mateo County Transit
District/Caltrain



Evelynn Tran,
General Counsel & Interim
General Manager/CEO
Santa Clara Valley
Transportation Authority



Jeanne Krieg,
Chief Executive Officer
Tri Delta Transit



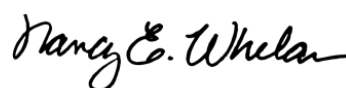
Rick Ramacier,
General Manager
County Connection



Denis Mulligan,
General Manager
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway
and Transportation District



Michael S. Tree,
General Manager
Livermore Amador Valley
Transport Authority



Nancy Whelan,
General Manager
Marin Transit



Kate Miller,
Executive Director
Napa Valley Transportation
Authority



Jared Hall,
Transit Manager
Petaluma Transit



Rachel Ede,
Deputy Director
City of Santa Rosa
Transportation and Public
Works



Jeffrey Tumlin,
General Manager
San Francisco Municipal
Transportation Agency



Farhad Mansourian,
General Manager
Sonoma-Marín Area Rail
Transit



Beth Kranda,
Executive Director
Solano County Transit



Bryan Albee,
Transit Systems Manager
Sonoma County Transit



Joan Malloy,
City Manager
Union City Transit



Charles Anderson,
General Manager
Western Contra Costa Transit
Authority



Seamus Murphy,
Executive Director
Water Emergency
Transportation Authority



Diane Feinstein,
Transportation Manager
City of Fairfield

cc: Members, Bay Area Caucus
Yolanda Richardson, Secretary, California Government Operations Agency
Nadine Burke, MD, MPH, Surgeon General, State of California
Erica S. Pan, MD, MPH, Acting State Public Health Officer, California Department of Public Health
David Kim, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
Members, Vaccine Drafting Guidelines Workgroup, California Department of Public Health
Members, Community Advisory Vaccine Committee, California Department of Public Health