

SBCAG STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Appointment to California Transportation Commission

MEETING DATE: November 19, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 6

STAFF CONTACT: Sarkes Khachek

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize submittal of SBCAG letter of support to Governor's Office for the appointment of Ms. Luz Reyes Martin to California Transportation Commission.

DISCUSSION:



The California Transportation Commission (CTC) is a thirteen-member Commission that is responsible for programming and allocating billions of dollars for the construction of highway, passenger rail, transit and active transportation improvements throughout California. The CTC also advises and assists the Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency and the Legislature in formulating and evaluating state policies and plans for most of California's transportation funding programs including programs in Senate Bill 1 (SB1). The CTC holds several meetings throughout the State each year to discuss transportation policies and trends and to allocate transportation funds. Tentatively, the August 2021 CTC meeting will be held in Santa Barbara for the first time since 2006.

The CTC consists of eleven voting members and two non-voting ex-officio members ([link to CTC website](#)). Of the eleven voting members, nine are appointed by the Governor, one is appointed by the Senate Rules Committee and one is appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly. The two ex-officio non-voting members are appointed from the State Senate and Assembly, usually the respective chairs of the transportation policy committee in each house.

In anticipation of any potential vacancies on the CTC that may be filled by the Governor, the Central Coast Coalition is recommending the appointment of Ms. Luz Reyes Martin to the Commission. Staff has prepared a support letter that includes Ms. Reyes Martin's resume (**Attachment A**). Ms. Reyes Martin has submitted her application to the Governor's Office and will be meeting with Legislative representatives in the near future.

Ms. Luz Reyes-Martín is a communications and public affairs professional, a community advocate, parent, and resident of the City of Goleta on the California Central Coast. Over the years she has worked for public agencies, private industry, and higher education. She has experience and expertise in the fields of communications, public affairs, land use planning, community development and marketing. Ms. Reyes Martin has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Chicano/Chicana Studies from Stanford University and Masters Degrees in Land Use Planning and Public Administration from the University of Southern California (USC). She currently serves as the Executive Director of Public Affairs and Communications at Santa Barbara City College.

Member Agencies

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Early in her professional career, Ms. Reyes Martin worked in municipal government for cities in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. She has experience as a consultant working for public transportation agencies such as Los Angeles Metro and Caltrans where she worked on major freeway and light rail projects, with an emphasis on environmental justice and sustainable transportation. Involvement in her community is an important value Luz holds. She holds several leadership positions including as an elected School Board Member for the Goleta Union School District and as an appointed Planning Commissioner for the City of Goleta. In addition, she currently serves as the President of the nonpartisan Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee and on the Boards of the Planned Parenthood Central Coast Action Fund and Sierra Club of Santa Barbara.

The CTC has never had a Commissioner appointed from the Central Coast region and staff believes that Ms. Reyes Martin would be an excellent candidate for the Commission. Ms. Reyes-Martin would be an invaluable voice in making decisions on the future of transportation related policies in California, and provide a perspective particularly from small, coastal, urban and rural communities, as they strive to meet statewide priorities for enhancing mobility and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Reyes Martin will be available for questions at the November SBCAG Board meeting.

ATTACHMENT:

- A. SBCAG Support Letter for Ms. Luz Reyes Martin

ATTACHMENT A



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■ Phone: 805/961-8900 ■ Fax: 805/961-8901 ■ www.sbcag.org

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November 19, 2020

Cathryn Rivera-Hernandez
Appointments Secretary
Governor's Office – Appointments Unit
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: California Transportation Commission Appointment Recommendation – Luz Reyes Martin

Dear Ms. Rivera-Hernandez,

The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) strongly supports the appointment of Ms. Luz Reyes Martin to the California Transportation Commission.

Ms. Luz Reyes Martin understands the importance of long-term investments in highways, active transportation, rail and transit in ways that will help California achieve 2030 greenhouse gas emissions targets and equity needs while maintaining the state's economic vitality.

Ms. Luz Reyes-Martin is a communications and public affairs professional, a community advocate, parent, and resident of the City of Goleta on the California Central Coast. Over the years she has worked for public agencies, private industry, and higher education. She has experience and expertise in the fields of communications, public affairs, land use planning, community development and marketing. Luz has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Chicano/Chicana Studies from Stanford University and Masters Degrees in Land Use Planning and Public Administration from the University of Southern California (USC). She currently serves as the Executive Director of Public Affairs and Communications at Santa Barbara City College.

Early in her professional career, Luz worked in municipal government for cities in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. She has experience as a consultant working for public transportation agencies such as Los Angeles Metro and Caltrans where she worked on major freeway and light rail projects, with an emphasis on environmental justice and sustainable transportation. Involvement in her community is an important value Luz holds. She holds several leadership positions including as an elected School Board Member for the Goleta Union School District and as an appointed Planning Commissioner for the City of Goleta. In addition, she currently serves as the President of the nonpartisan Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee and on the Boards of the Planned Parenthood Central Coast Action Fund and Sierra Club of Santa Barbara.

Ms. Luz Reyes-Martin also understands the importance of long-term investments in highways, active transportation, rail and transit in ways that will help California achieve 2030 greenhouse gas emissions targets and equity needs while maintaining the state's economic vitality.

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The Central Coast has never had a representative in the history of the Commission. Ms. Luz Reyes-Martín would be an invaluable voice in making decisions on the future of transportation related policies in California, and provide a perspective particularly from small, coastal, urban and rural communities, as they strive to meet statewide priorities for enhancing mobility and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

For these reasons, we strongly support the appointment of Ms. Luz Reyes-Martín to the California Transportation Commission.

Please contact Sarkes Khachek, Director of Programming with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, at (209) 402-4445 or by email at SKhachek@sbcag.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Marjie Kirn, Executive Director
Santa Barbara Association of Governments

cc: Members of the Senate Rules Committee
Governor Gavin Newsom
David Kim, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
Sarkes Khachek, Director of Programming, SBCAG
Lauren Bianchi Klemann, Government Affairs and Public Information Manager, SBCAG