



ECOC

Escondido Chamber of Citizens

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE PROPOSITION A - SANDAG'S TAX PROPOSAL **September 2016**

Whereas the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) serves as the regional decision-making authority to prioritize and determine how your taxpayer dollars will be spent on public transportation and related quality of life capital projects; and

Whereas the SANDAG Public Participation Plan is designed to inform and involve the region's residents in the decision-making process on issues such as growth, public transportation, environmental management, housing, open space, air quality, energy, fiscal management, economic development, and public safety;

Be it resolved that the Escondido Chamber of Citizens, a non-partisan, non-profit organization that participates in public processes to resolve quality of life issues impacting all citizens, **does not support SANDAG's proposed Proposition A** to increase the sales tax in San Diego County by half a cent for the next 40 years;

Whereas the proposed ballot initiative will be voted on by the people of San Diego County in the 2016 November election, and if passed, will increase the countywide sales tax by half a cent to pay for public transportation projects, traffic relief, safety, large-scale infrastructure projects, open space, water quality and quantity, and improvements to roads and streets;

Be it resolved that San Diego County residents deserve to be educated on why SANDAG would propose yet another sales tax increase to address congested freeways and aging infrastructures without first resolving the negative fiscal impact from new developments which compound the already existing traffic gridlock;

Whereas in 1987, San Diego County residents approved a similar ballot measure (TransNet) to raise the sales tax by half a cent for the next 20 years, and then later asked the voters in 2004 to extend this sales tax to be effective through

2048, for a total of 60 years; and whereas there is no evidence of traffic relief or the accounting of projects that have been completed;

Be it resolved that ECOC does not support Proposition A, a 40-year sales tax increase measure that contradicts the City of San Diego's Climate Action Plan goals, which calls for measures to strengthen local infrastructures to significantly reduce the number of San Diegans who commute by car, thereby reducing air pollution;

Whereas SANDAG estimates that approximately \$18.2 billion dollars will be raised from Proposition A, and a percentage will be earmarked for public transit; improvement to San Diego's neighborhoods; road and street repairs; and bike projects, 69 percent of the \$18.2 billion dollars earned in tax revenue will remain under SANDAG's spending authority;

Be it resolved that ECOC believes that taxpayers' hard earned dollars should not be spent on the construction of freeway lanes and new developments should be built near existing and robust public transportation systems to reduce congested freeways;

Whereas SANDAG claims that more jobs will be generated in San Diego County without Prevailing Labor Agreements (PLA's), residents have not been informed of the anticipated number of new jobs under Proposition A, or the number of jobs and salaries that were created under TransNet;

Be it resolved that ECOC does not support SANDAG's proposal to implement a regressive tax that will negatively impact hard-working families. ECOC encourages elected officials to consider the hardship of a flat user fee tax on county residents striving to support their families following a long economic recession; and

Be it further resolved that SANDAG's solution to ask taxpayers to pay must be accomplished through a region-wide development impact fee which would make future growth pay its fair share for transportation projects as is already being done by your counterpart (SANDAG) in Riverside County.