

Date: _____ January 22, 2008

Committee Meeting Date: _____ January 17, 2008

Board Meeting Date: _____ February 7, 2008

BOARD MEMORANDUM

INFORMATION ITEM

TO: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: Kurt Evans
Federal/State Government Affairs Manager

SUBJECT: Monthly Legislative History Matrix

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

BACKGROUND:

For your information, I am attaching our Monthly Legislative History Matrix, which describes key transportation-related bills that are being considered by the California State Legislature during the 2007-08 session. It indicates the status of these measures and any adopted VTA positions with regard to them.

DISCUSSION:

When lawmakers return to the State Capitol Building on January 7, they will hit the ground running. During their first week back in Sacramento, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will present his State of the State Address to the Legislature and release his FY 2009 budget proposal. Lawmakers also will be busy with legislation from last year. The deadline for bills that were introduced in 2007 to be passed out of their house of origin is January 31. Meanwhile, two special sessions on health care and water that were called by the Governor last year will continue in 2008.

It is expected that California's fiscal crisis will dominate the 2008 regular legislative session. The housing downturn and economic slowdown have put California's state budget under severe pressure. The most recent estimates prepared by the Department of Finance show a budget shortfall of more than \$14 billion. Gov. Schwarzenegger has declared a fiscal emergency and has ordered all state departments to prepare for 10 percent reductions. Meanwhile, the Assembly and Senate are gearing up for what promises to be extraordinarily difficult budget deliberations. In this environment, funding for all areas of state government, including transportation, is in jeopardy.

Prepared by: Kurt Evans, Federal/State Government Affairs Manager