

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to, or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, although the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is an important tool for providing environmental protections, especially for historically marginalized and underserved populations, the CEQA process is subject to appeals and lawsuits that can increase project costs and create delays for vital active transportation and sustainable transit projects; and

WHEREAS, certain projects in urbanized areas are exempt from CEQA requirements through January 1, 2023, including transit prioritization projects, and projects for pedestrian and bicycle facilities, or for the implementation or increase of new bus rapid transit, bus, or light rail services on public or highway rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, these existing exemptions allow for the significant acceleration of sustainable active transportation projects that make streets safer, expand access and mobility, speed up bus service, improve public health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, and support local businesses and economies; and

WHEREAS, the current exemptions will directly benefit projects such as the Department of Transportation's Washington Yard Microgrid Project, which will provide sustainable transportation options and electric vehicle infrastructure while reducing air pollutant emissions; and

WHEREAS, SB 922 (Wiener), introduced on February 3, 2022 and amended on March 16, 2022, would eliminate the January 1, 2023 sunset clause and allow for the creation of equitable and sustainable transportation projects without unnecessary delays;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 922 (Wiener), which would eliminate the January 1, 2023 sunset date in existing law and provide for a statutory exemption to CEQA for sustainable transportation projects in an effort to reduce the associated cost and time burdens.

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

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