



SPUR

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

Honorable Ben Allen
California State Senate, 26th District
State Capitol, Room 4076
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 11, 2021

Re: SUPPORT-SB 44 (Allen)- CEQA Streamlining for Zero Emissions Transit

Dear Senator Allen,

SPUR supports SB 44 and the sustainable transportation system it helps to achieve. Through research, education and advocacy, SPUR works to make the Bay Area an equitable, sustainable and prosperous region. Large scale transit projects are frequently the targets of CEQA-based litigation, causing delays, higher costs and diminishing the usefulness of the project to the people who voted and paid for it. SB44 would address this problem by establishing expedited administrative and judicial review under CEQA for a narrow band of transit projects that have clear environmental benefit and are consistent with the region's sustainable communities strategy (or similar plan). We know from AB 900 that ministerial streamlining can successfully minimize excessive delays. SB 44 creates certainty for transportation projects, while ensuring that community concerns continue to be heard and addressed in a timely fashion.

The state of California has been a leader on addressing climate change, and is working heartily to reduce our transportation-related emissions through legislation, Executive Orders, and the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure. SB44 provides a common sense pathway to help meet our climate goals.

Sincerely,

Laura Tolkoff
Transportation Policy Director