



August 3, 2018

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2923 (Chiu/Grayson) San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART): Transit-oriented Development – STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Mayors Conference of Contra Costa County, representing all 19 cities in Contra Costa County, unanimously states strong opposition to AB 2923, which would grant a regional transit authority zoning control over local jurisdictions for land at or adjacent to its transit stations. Land use regulation is a constitutionally granted local government function of cities and counties; this bill violates that fundamental principal. Every community has unique needs that are best met by policies set by its locally elected officials, not a regional transit board located outside our County.

As mayors of Contra Costa County cities, we fully embrace the need for transit oriented development, both housing and mixed use commercial/retail, near transit stations; we welcome working cooperatively and collaboratively with BART to facilitate such development on BART-owned land, as we have for decades.

Passage of AB 2923 would set a dangerous precedent throughout the State, emboldening other special districts to seek land use control from its host jurisdictions. Addressing the housing crisis by usurping land use control from the residents of a city is not the answer. As a result, we the Mayors Conference of Contra Costa County, representing the mayors and voters in our 19 cities, strongly oppose AB2923.

Respectfully,

Karen Stepper
Chair, Contra Costa Mayors Conference
Council Member, Town of Danville

Cc: Assembly Member Catharine Baker
Assembly Member Jim Frazier
Assembly Member Tim Grayson
Assembly Member Tony Thurmond
Assembly Member David Chiu
State Senator Steve Glazer
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Contra Costa County Mayors
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities
Sam Caygill, League of Cities East Bay Regional Public Affairs Manager
BART General Manager Grace Crunican