

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 government body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is currently pushing for a safer transportation approach supportive of all modes of travel by creating more bus lanes, bike lanes and light rail lines to connect different parts of the City more efficiently; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is seeking to reduce the amount of cars on the road and, in moving to a more green city with zero emissions by 2030, must look further at ways this will be attained; and

WHEREAS, currently, there are critical transportation projects and housing projects that have been or are being delayed or canceled due to misguided use of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and

WHEREAS, electrified rail projects and service along existing rights-of-way benefit the environment by reducing travel emissions; and

WHEREAS, these projects are nonetheless often subject to onerous CEQA reviews that increase costs and lengthen delivery timelines, while many road projects are not; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 2503 (Lee) would exempt from CEQA public projects for the institution or increase of other passenger rail service that will be exclusively used by zero-emission electrified trains, on existing rail rights-of-way or existing highway rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, this bill will remove a frequent roadblock that agencies like Los Angeles Metro, Metrolink, and Caltrans face and give them the opportunity to develop transit much faster and more cost effectively; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles supports this bill in order to push for rail services to be developed much faster to reach our zero-emission goal by 2030.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of the Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2024-25 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 2503 (Lee), which seeks to streamline the approval of electric rail projects and service increases.

PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



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