



SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

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2013

August 4, 2013

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9TH DISTRICT

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 94814

Dear Governor Brown,

As you are aware, BART and its unions (AFSCME 3993, SEUI 1021, ATU 1555) have been at the bargaining table for months trying to reach a deal on the terms of a new contract. Throughout this process, the District has necessarily prioritized the long-term health and sustainability of the BART system, and its ability to meet the future needs of our Bay Area residents. The BART system is aging, and needs considerable reinvestment to meet the mobility needs of the Bay Area while state and federal support for transit dwindle. Meanwhile, the cost of maintaining benefits continues to grow faster than our revenues. Our labor agreements must reflect these financial realities.

We will continue to focus our efforts on the table and remain committed to reaching an agreement. We believe that the best agreement is one arrived at between the parties themselves, without intervention by outside forces.

Despite these efforts, we may reach tonight's midnight deadline without an agreement. If this is the case, the District is willing to extend the contracts and will make that offer to the unions. If they decline to extend the contracts, they may choose to strike and shut down BART service. As we saw in early July, the effect of a public transit strike is a complete disruption of the Bay Area economy.

If the unions do decide to strike, we are requesting that you seek a cooling off period for these three unions, as provided for in California Government Code Section 3612 (the Public Transportation Labor Disputes Act). This would allow us to continue negotiating while assuring the public that it will have transit service tomorrow and for another 60 days as we continue to bargain. We believe the public should not be deprived of this essential public service unless all alternatives to avoid a work stoppage have been utilized.

We appreciate your vigilance in monitoring this process and trust we may continue to rely on your help as we continue to work out this complex dispute.

Sincerely,

Tom Radulovich
President

cc: Board of Directors
General Manager

