



October 10, 2017

Commissioner Alvarado
Northern California Carpenters Regional Council
265 Hegenberger Road, Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94621-1480

RE: Reference No.: 2.4c. (2) October 18-19, 2017

Dear Commissioner Alvarado,

I am writing to ask for your support for the item referenced above on the October agenda of the California Transportation Commission. While the staff memo recommends a 15-year term at market rate, **we would respectfully ask the Commission to consider continuing the terms of our current contract which requires a rent payment of \$1,000 per month for a term no less than 25 years.** Given the amount of capital investment needed in the site, and the Food Bank's important partnerships with the State of California and the City and County of San Francisco, we believe this agreement is appropriate. Our Food Distribution Facility is located a block away and access to additional truck and vehicle parking is essential as we enter a phase of building expansion designed to increase our food distribution to the community.

One in four people in San Francisco and Marin are food insecure. Our programs are a bulwark against uncertain times, as our participants face the high cost of living, coupled with potential cuts to safety net programs that could drive even more people into poverty. The SF-Marin Food Bank serves more people in our service area than any other food bank in the country and acts as a critical first responder during natural disasters. This year, we will distribute 48 million pounds of fresh, nutritious food to 225,000 of our neighbors in need – that's enough for over 110,000 meals each day to feed families, seniors, and individuals struggling with hunger. In addition to the 150 people we have on staff, we couldn't fulfill our mission without a dedicated cadre of 40,000 volunteers each year (the equivalent of 70 full time staff) who help us pack and sort the food that goes out to our community.

Extending the term of this lease is essential to the Food Bank in order to justify the cost of improving the Caltrans property with pavement, lighting, curb cut, fencing and drainage. A list of proposed improvements is attached – we expect the cost to be upward of \$250,000.

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Furthermore, the property is important to maintaining the level of work we do under contracts with the California Department of Education (\$7,863,092 annually) and the California Department of Social Services (\$4,776,345 annually). This is in addition to other government based work conducted with funding by the government agencies detailed in the attached document and of course our privately funded feeding programs.

One in four children and one in five adults live at or near the poverty line in California. It is crucial that the nonprofit sector work closely with government agencies like the CTC to provide a robust response to the issue of hunger. In this case there is no other space available near our facility that will enable our current work to proceed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul Ash
Executive Director

Sincerely,



Michael Terris
SF-MFB Board Chair

CC: Ms. Susan Bransen, Executive Director, California Transportation Commission
Ms. Fran Inman, Vice Chair, California Transportation Commission
Ms. Yvonne B. Burke, California Transportation Commissioner
Mr. James Earp, California Transportation Commissioner
Mr. Carl Guardino, California Transportation Commissioner
Mr. Paul Van Konynenburg, California Transportation Commissioner
Mr. Joseph Tavaglione, California Transportation Commissioner
Senator Jim Beall, California Transportation Commissioner
Ms. Lucetta Dunn, California Transportation Commissioner
Mr. James C. Ghielmetti, California Transportation Commissioner
Ms. Christine Kehoe, California Transportation Commissioner
Mr. James Madaffer, California Transportation Commissioner
Assembly Member Jim Frazier, California Transportation Commissioner
Mr. Stephen Maller, Chief Deputy Director, California Transportation Commission
Eric Thronson, Deputy Director, California Transportation Commission
Assembly Member David Chiu, California State Assembly District 17
Senator Scott Wiener, California State Senate District 11
Supervisor Malia Cohen, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 10
Mayor Ed Lee, Mayor of San Francisco