

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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**August 27, 2024**

Board of Directors  
Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)  
55 B Plaza Circle  
Salinas, CA 93901

Via email: [info@tamcmonterey.org](mailto:info@tamcmonterey.org)

Subject: **August 28, 2024 Board Meeting Agenda Item 6 (SURF! Busway Project Alignment)**

Dear Honorable TAMC Board Members,

Commission staff understand that you will meet tomorrow on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss and provide feedback on Monterey-Salinas Transit's proposed SURF! Busway, including potentially allowing it to be placed atop the existing Monterey Branch Line railroad tracks/ballast. It is our understanding that one of the important questions about doing so is whether it would preclude future rail services. This letter is meant to provide you with Commission staff's opinion that, from a Coastal Act perspective, it will not preclude such potential future rail use, and will actually help facilitate it in the future. We believe that placing the bus on the track will provide for needed transportation and environmental enhancements today while still allowing for longer-term visioning and planning on what type of rail is appropriate for this corridor. We do not see this as a mutually exclusive endeavor, and in fact would actually help lay the foundation for a future rail, whether it be a light rail line on the road itself, or a new commuter/heavy rail line that replaces the road, or some other permutation. In any event, these iterations and understandings of what transportation and coastal access can and should look like will all still be on the table for future discussion while the SURF! Busway is in operation.

We hope this helps provide some clarity on these points, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions on the matter.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

*Kevin Kahn*

Kevin Kahn

Central Coast District Manager  
California Coastal Commission

cc: Todd Muck, TAMC Executive Director