

Eco-Rapid Transit, formerly known as the Orangeline Development Authority, is a joint powers authority (JPA) created to pursue development of a transit system that moves as rapidly as possible, uses grade separation as appropriate, and is environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The system is designed to enhance and increase transportation options for riders of this region utilizing safe, advanced transit technology to expand economic growth that maximizes ridership in Southern California. The Authority is composed of the following public agencies:

- City of Artesia
- City of Bell
- City of Bell Gardens
- City of Cudahy
- City of Downey
- City of Glendale
- City of Huntington Park
- City of Maywood
- City of Paramount
- City of South Gate
- Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority

Chair

Karina Macias
Councilmember
City of Huntington Park

Vice-Chair

Ali Sajjad Taj
Mayor
City of Artesia

Secretary

Sean Ashton
Councilmember
City of Downey

Treasurer

Vrej Agajanian
Mayor
City of Glendale

Internal Auditor

Jose R. Gonzalez
Vice-Mayor
City of Cudahy

Executive Director

Michael R. Kodama

General Counsel

Teresa L. Highsmith

Ex-Officio

William Rawlings
City Manager Representative

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Members of Eco-Rapid Transit Board of Directors

FROM: Michael Kodama, Executive Director

DATE: August 12, 2020

SUBJECT: **PRESENTATION BY THE HONORABLE KEVIN DE LEÓN, FORMER CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE PRESIDENT AND CITY COUNCILMEMBER ELECT FOR THE 14TH DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES REGARDING ECO-RAPID TRANSIT, WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH AND THE 14TH COUNCIL DISTRICT**

Public comments on items on the agenda will be taken at the time the item is called and are limited to 3 minutes per speaker

ISSUE

The Honorable Kevin de León is the Councilmember Elect for the 14th District of the City of Los Angeles and will make a presentation regarding the importance of working together with Eco-Rapid Transit to bring the West Santa Ana Branch to his City Council District.

BACKGROUND

The Honorable Kevin de León has been an educator, activist, community organizer, and the first Latino leader of the California State Senate in 130 years. For the last decade, he represented Senate District 24, which overlaps a significant portion of Los Angeles City Council District 14.

Currently, he is a professor, senior analyst, and distinguished policymaker-in-residence at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs; as well as a Distinguished Fellow for Climate, Environmental Justice and Health with the USC Schwarzenegger Instituted at the University of Southern California.

Kevin de León was elected to the California State Senate in 2010, and in 2014 he was elected by his colleagues to lead the Senate, making him the first Latino to serve as President pro Tempore in over a century. Before his election to the Senate, he served four years in the State Assembly.

During his time as President pro Tempore of the California State Senate, he led the 40-member body to historic accomplishments to improve the lives of Californians, the state's environment, and economy for decades to come. He secured more than \$68 million to revitalize the Los Angeles River, \$176 million to clean up toxic waste around the former Exide Technologies facility, funding for more than a dozen new parks, and \$26 million to complete the Los Angeles State Historic Park. He appropriated tens of millions of dollars to make Los Angeles schools more energy-efficient through Prop 39, bringing relief to city taxpayers. He also authored Proposition 68, to keep drinking water clean and open new parks throughout the



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state. As author of Proposition 2, he secured the largest financial investment to build permanent supportive housing for Californians experiencing homelessness, especially in Los Angeles.

Prior to being elected to public office, he worked as a community organizer and also as a teacher, teaching English as a Second Language and U.S. Citizenship. He is the son of a single, immigrant mother, who supported her family working as a house-keeper, among other jobs. He was the first in his family to graduate from high school and college. He attended U.C. Santa Barbara and graduated from Pitzer College with honors.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Discuss information presented and offer action items; and/or
2. Receive and file the item